University of Suffolk

DEFINITIVE COURSE RECORD

Course Title	**FdSc Civil Engineering**
Awarding Bodies	**University of Suffolk**
Level of Award[1]	**FHEQ Level 5**
Professional, Statutory and Regulatory Bodies Recognition	**Joint Board of Moderators (JBM)**
Credit Structure[2]	**240 Credits** **Level 4: 120 Credits** **Level 5: 120 Credits**
Mode of Attendance	**Part-time**
Standard Length of Course[3]	**3 years part-time**
Intended Award	**FdSc Civil Engineering**
Named Exit Awards	None
Entry Requirements[4]	**96 UCAS tariff points from a relevant level 3 technical diploma** **96 UCAS tariff points that includes an A level (Grade C and above) in physics or chemistry.** **96 UCAS tariff points that's includes an A level (Grade C and above) in maths.** ***For those who do not have any of the above but have demonstrable levels of prior knowledge/experience,**

[1] For an explanation of the levels of higher education study, see the QAA Frameworks for Higher Education Qualifications of UK Degree-Awarding Bodies (2024)

[2] All academic credit awarded as a result of study at the University adheres to the Higher education credit framework for England.

[3] Where the course is delivered both full-time and part-time, the standard length of course is provided for the full-time mode of attendance only. The length of the part-time course is variable and dependent upon the intensity of study. Further information about mode of study and maximum registration periods can be found in the Framework and Regulations for Undergraduate Awards.

[4] Details of standard entry requirements can be found in the Admissions Policy and further details about Disclosure and Barring Checks (DBS) can be found on the University's DBS webpage.

	applicants will be offered an interview by the curriculum team. **All students will need to complete a maths assessment, to judge suitability.**
Delivering Institution(s)	**University of Suffolk at Suffolk New College**
UCAS Code	**N/A**

This definitive record sets out the essential features and characteristics of the FdSc Civil Engineering course. The information provided is accurate for students entering level 4 in the 2026-27 academic year.[5]

Course Summary

This course is aimed specifically at those students who are working as engineers and managers in roles involving the design, production and maintenance of the national infrastructure and in structural design. As such, the programme aims to provide a general understanding of the function and operation of the construction industry together with opportunities to study modules covering the more specialist areas of each student's chosen area of study. Typically, students will come from a variety of employment backgrounds including general civil engineering, local government highways management and specialist sub-contracting companies. Graduates have found employment as site engineers, CAD technicians, technician engineers, highway engineers and estimators. Students completing the FdSc course have the option of progressing on to the BSc (Hons) Civil Engineering [progression route].

Course Aims

Overall, the Civil Engineering student will be able to demonstrate:

1. Gain a foundation knowledge and understanding of the most up to date practices and theories in Civil Engineering
2. Apply techniques for analysing and solving problems arising in various Civil Engineering projects.
3. Understand the role of the engineer as an important professional in society and the built environment.
4. Address issues both systematically and creatively, make sound decisions and communicate conclusions clearly to specialist and non-specialist audiences
5. Start to demonstrate self-direction and originality in solving problems, and plan and implement tasks at a professional level

[5] The University reserves the right to make changes to course content, structure, teaching and assessment as outlined in the Admissions Policy.

Students will have the opportunity to demonstrate their achievement in relation to these issues, through their coursework and performance on the programme.

Course Learning Outcomes
The following statements define what students graduating from the FdSc Civil Engineering course will have been judged to have demonstrated in order to achieve the award. These statements, known as learning outcomes, have been formally approved as aligned with the generic qualification descriptor for level 5 awards as set out by the UK Quality Assurance Agency (QAA)[6].

Upon successful completion of the FdSc (Level 5) programme of study, you will have developed your ability to:

1. Interpret and apply science and applied mathematical concepts.
2. Identify, analyse, and to solve a range of theoretical and practical problems.
3. Plan, design, and implement a structured research project using appropriate methodologies.
4. Critically and appropriately utilise a wide variety of information sources
5. Analyse project risks and evaluate alternative solutions to engineering problems.
6. Communicate ideas, arguments, and research findings clearly and coherently in both academic and professional contexts, using appropriate formats and media.
7. Apply effective teamwork, research, and academic study skills in collaborative and individual learning environments.
8. Demonstrate a systematic understanding of health and safety, sustainability and environmental considerations

Course Design
The design of this course has been guided by the following QAA Benchmarks /Professional Standards:

QAA Benchmarks:

- Engineering (2023)

Professional Standards:

[6] As set out in the QAA Frameworks for Higher Education Qualifications of UK Degree-Awarding Bodies (2024)

- Joint Board of Moderators (JBM);
- UK-SPEC Engineering Technician, Incorporated Engineer and Chartered Engineer Standard

Course Structure
The FdSc Civil Engineering comprises modules at levels 4 and 5.
Module Specifications for each of these modules are included within the course handbook, available to students on-line at the beginning of each academic year.

	Module	Credits	Module Type[7]
Level 4			
	Civil Engineering Technology	20	M
	Engineering Concepts	20	M
	Surveying and Setting Out	20	M
	Materials Technology A	20	M
	The Professional Engineer	20	M
	Highways and Transportation	20	M
	Supportive Mathematics	0	R

Level 5			
	Mathematics	20	M
	Soil Mechanics	20	M
	Hydraulics	20	M
	Structural Analysis and Design A	20	M
	Sustainable Design and Environmental Engineering	20	M

[7] Modules are designated as either mandatory (M), requisite (R) or optional (O). For definitions, see the Framework and Regulations for Undergraduate Awards

	Engineering Research and Practice	20	M

Awards
On successful completion of the course, students will be awarded a FdSc Civil Engineering.

Course Delivery
The course is delivered at the University of Suffolk at Suffolk New College. Students studying part-time on FdSc Civil Engineering are likely to have approximately 7/8 contact hours per week. The contact hours will be a mix of lectures, individual and group exercises and practical work. The majority of students will be employed full-time in the civil engineering industry and those that are not will need to gain a total of 240 hours work experience per year. Students would need to find their own work experience placement. Students will normally be expected to undertake approximately 14 hours of tutor directed and independent study in an average week, but should be prepared for this to vary based on assignment deadlines and class exercises.

Course Assessment
A variety of assessments will be used on the course to enable students to experience and adapt to different assessment styles. The assessment methods used will be appropriate to assess each module's intended learning outcomes. Assessment on the course overall will be approximately 75% coursework (including assignments, reports, case studies and practical work write-ups) and 25% examinations. Some modules are 100% examination based.

Special Features
This programme is accredited by the Joint Board of Moderators (JBM). Holders of this qualification fully satisfy the education base for an Engineering Technician (EngTech) and partially satisfy the educational base for an Incorporated Engineer (IEng).

Course Team
The academic staff delivering this course are drawn from a team that includes teaching specialists and current practitioners. All staff are qualified in their subjects with their own specialist knowledge to contribute.

Course Costs
Students undertaking FdSc Civil Engineering will be charged tuition fees as detailed below:

Student Group	Tuition Fees
Full-time UK	Not applicable
Part-time UK	£1,370 per 20 credit module
Full-time EU/International	Not applicable
Part-time EU/International	Not applicable

Payment of tuition fees is due at the time of enrolment and is managed in accordance with the Tuition Fee Policy.

Site visits are organised during the course and costs to students are usually limited to paying for transport. Students may spend up to £60 on books but this is not compulsory. No specialist equipment is required.

Academic Framework and Regulations
This course is delivered according to the Framework and Regulations for Undergraduate Awards and other academic policies and procedures of the University and published on the website.