

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
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	Typical Offer: 80 UCAS tariff points from a relevant level 3 qualification (or equivalent) All students will have an assessment to establish that they can demonstrate appropriate levels of work experience and commitment. Students are required to be in relevant work for the duration of the course or to find a relevant work placement. A more flexible approach can be taken with mature applicants with appropriate work experience, who will be considered on their individual merits.
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 2022-23 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

¹ For an explanation of the levels of higher education study, see the [QAA Frameworks for Higher Education Qualifications of UK Degree-Awarding Bodies \(2014\)](#)

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](#).

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

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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

- The ability to develop, monitor and update a plan, to reflect a changing operating environment
- The ability to monitor and adjust a personal programme of work on an on-going basis and to learn independently
- An understanding of different roles within a team, and the ability to exercise leadership
- The ability to learn new theories, concepts, methods etc. in unfamiliar situations

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.

A. Knowledge and Understanding

The emphasis is on application and evaluation of contrasting ideas, principles, theories and practices; greater specialism in the realms of Civil Engineering by study; and an increasing independence in systematic enquiry and analysis.

Upon successful completion of the course, students will have developed their ability to:

- Identify, analyse and solve a wide variety of theoretical and practical problems;
- Plan and execute a research programme;
- Critically use a wide variety of paper-based and electronic information sources;
- Evaluate alternative routes to the solution of your needs; and
- Communicate their understanding clearly in a variety of ways in both academic and work contexts.

B. Mental and cognitive skills

At the end of the programme, students will have developed their ability to evaluate alternative theories and techniques both in the broad context of construction issues and in relation to specific, specialist construction situations.

C. Subject Specific and Practical Skills

At the end of the programme, students will have developed their skills in level 5 subject content and built on those developed at level 4.

These will focus on the established knowledge, skills and techniques needed to successfully manage the processes required on Civil Engineering projects.

⁶ As set out in the [QAA Frameworks for Higher Education Qualifications of UK Degree-Awarding Bodies \(2014\)](#)

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D. Key Skills

Key Skills, also known as graduate key skills, transferable skills or general skills, comprise communication, information technology, problem solving, numeracy, working with others and improving own learning.

By the end of the course students should be able to demonstrate ability in:

- Absorbing the ethos of lifelong learning by continuing professional development (CPD);
- Communication/inter-personal/social skills;
- Development of flexibility/initiative;
- Development of team working and leadership skills;
- Study skills;
- Employability skills;
- Number skills; and
- Use of information technology (IT)

Course Design

The design of this course has been guided by the following QAA Benchmark and Professional Standards

QAA Benchmarks:

- Engineering (2015)

Professional Standards:

- 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 title	Work Based	Credits	Module type ⁷
Level 4 modules			
Civil Engineering Technology A		20	M
Mathematics A		20	M
Engineering and Sustainable Development	✓	20	M
Materials Technology A		20	M
Engineering Concepts		20	M
Surveying and Setting Out		20	M
Level 5 modules			
Mathematics B		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

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Module title	Work Based	Credits	Module type ⁷
Civil Engineering Technology B		20	M
Soil Mechanics		20	M
Structural Analysis & Design A		20	M
Contractual and Procurement Procedures		20	M
Engineering Research & 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 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 17 hours of 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/EU	Not applicable
Part-time UK/EU	£1,370 per 20 credit module
Full-time International	Not applicable
Part-time International	£2,433 per 20 credit module

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

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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](#).