

**PROGRAMME SPECIFICATION**

for the award of

**MSc in Real Estate**

**Managed by the Faculty of Technology, Design and Environment**

**delivered by the School of the Built Environment**

<b>Date approved:</b>	February 2021
<b>Applies to students commencing study in:</b>	September 2021

**RECORD OF UPDATES**

<b>Date amended*</b>	<b>Nature of amendment**</b>	<b>Reason for amendment**</b>
July 2016	Transferred to new template, update graduate attribute from global to active citizenship	CMA Compliance, Update to graduate attribute

**SECTION 1: GENERAL INFORMATION**

<b>Awarding body:</b>	Oxford Brookes University
<b>Teaching institution and location:</b>	Oxford Brookes University, Headington Campus
<b>Language of study:</b>	English
<b>Final award/s:</b>	MSc in Real Estate PG Diploma in Real Estate
<b>Programme title:</b>	MSc in Real Estate
<b>Interim exit awards and award titles available:</b>	PG Certificate in Real Estate PG Diploma in Real Estate
<b>Brookes course code:</b>	MSc-REZ/BE56
<b>UCAS code:</b>	P050676
<b>JACS code:</b>	NA
<b>HECoS code:</b>	100586
<b>Mode of delivery:</b> (Mode of study is given in brackets)	Face to face/on-campus (full-time) Face to face/on-campus (part-time) Distance learning (part-time)
<b>Duration of study:</b>	12 months full-time 30 months part-time Five years maximum duration
<b>Subject benchmark statement/s which apply to the programme:</b>	There is not a relevant postgraduate subject benchmark statement applying to the programme.
<b>Professional accreditation attached to the programme:</b>	Accreditation is being sought from the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors (RICS) for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The MSc provides exemption from the educational requirements for membership of the RICS.</li><li>• The PG Diploma in Real Estate to provide exemption from the educational requirements for membership of the RICS when combined with either a RICS partially accredited postgraduate specialist course, or a RICS-approved undergraduate programme at OBU.</li></ul>
<b>Apprenticeship Standard:</b>	Not applicable
<b>University Regulations:</b>	The programme conforms to the University Regulations for the year of entry as published/archived at: <a href="http://www.brookes.ac.uk/regulations/">http://www.brookes.ac.uk/regulations/</a>

## **SECTION 2: WHY STUDY THIS PROGRAMME?**

### **Who is the programme for?**

The MSc in Real Estate is a premier postgraduate programme for students wishing to enter the property profession. The programme meets the strong demand from the real estate profession for high-calibre postgraduate students from varying backgrounds. The programme, grounded in academic excellence, is a practice-based programme for students wishing to become chartered surveyors. The programme is designed to be interdisciplinary in outlook. The knowledge and skills developed in the programme are highly transferable between not only many real estate disciplines but wider industry.

This is a non-cognate conversion programme that is accredited by the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors (RICS). It has been developed in close consultation with leading practitioners to create an innovative course which reflects the latest conceptual thinking and best-practice in the sector. It prepares graduates for the challenges of entering professional practice and completing the Assessment of Professional Competence (APC) to become a Chartered Surveyor.

New starters tend to be undergraduates from various disciplines that have recently completed their studies and are seeking a career-oriented PG degree. Additionally, applications will be considered from those candidates that have a suitable professional background that may be looking to upskill but may not have previously studied an undergraduate degree. The suitability of such candidates will be assessed through an interview process.

### **What makes the programme distinctive?**

Distinctive aspects include:

#### Interdisciplinary setting .

The MSc in Real Estate is housed in the Oxford Brookes Faculty of Technology Design and Environment; a large and multi-disciplinary Faculty that offers courses and produces research across the full spectrum of built environment disciplines. Students in the MSc in Real Estate therefore form part of a large and diverse community of built environment academics, practitioners, and students. This richness and diversity feeds directly into our curriculum through the exposure of Real Estate students to staff and students from other disciplines, within the School of the Built Environment: The intensive study weeks are a prime example where you can study new content, delivered each semester, by other departments of the school e.g. planning, urban design, construction, project management and architecture.

#### Course Structure.

To meet the challenging demands of the modern learner and increase accessibility, the MSc programme, through its use of the Virtual Learning Environment (VLE), provides a highly flexible programme of study. Thus, the MSc is available to you, both as a one year full-time programme, and in open-learning mode (distance learning) normally taken over three years (both extendable up to 5 years). The course consists of five core modules, plus an Applied Projectmodule with elective assessment options. The modules are entirely self-contained so that you can enter the program either in September or January.

#### Transformational Curriculum.

The programme delivers a truly transformational curriculum through its focus on the delivery based on four pillars of knowledge essential to the real estate practitioner: law and professional practice; valuation and investment; business and management and delivery of the built environment. Whilst these are regarded as the foundation stones of knowledge, you will also embrace the key themes and challenges facing the industry, the content and context of which is embedded in every module. To ensure the course remains at the fore-front of delivery and relevance, regular meetings are held with the programmes Professional Liaison Group (PLG); a group of industry experts, alumni and teaching staff that meet to debate, rationalise and capture the latest trends, emerging themes, and requirements of industry, and ensure these are nested within the transformational curriculum, at the earliest opportunity.

### An intuitive approach to teaching.

A collaborative approach to learning and teaching is adopted in the MSc in Real Estate programme drawing upon our own multi-disciplinary teaching team, many of whom have had significant and varied industry experience. Teaching through workshops, case studies and Problem Based Learning (PBL) scenarios create a challenging and stimulating environment for learning. The evidence shows on other school PG programmes, indicates that students on such courses achieve a deeper level of learning and consequently they are better positioned to transfer complex concepts to new problems and contexts.

### The supportive learning environment.

Because of the number of students on the programme (typically 20-40 students will enrol each year), you will get to know each other well and many of you will establish strong professional relationships with your classmates. Distance Learners have the option to attend any lecture, workshop or activity held as part of the programme, at the Headington Campus, creating a framework for network development and allowing access to a different mode of teaching. As lecturers, we also seek to build a supportive learning environment and develop positive relationships with our student cohorts.

### Employability.

Industry feedback and requirements are embedded into the programme design and evaluation that ultimately leads to enhanced employability prospects for all. Delivery of guest lectures, workshops and problem based learning by external practitioners also affords you regular visibility, contact and engagement with leading industry experts. A comprehensive mentoring scheme is offered to each of you on joining the programme with alumni, to help you through your studies and prepare you for future employment.

### Active Alumni.

All students are supported and can join the alumni of the School Oxford Brookes Real Estate Management Society (OBREMS) with over 2,000 members. The alumni contribute to the programme in several ways; in discussions about the development of the programme; informal contact with you, speaking at formal events and providing prizes for outstanding work.

### Oxford as our 'living laboratory'.

Oxford and Oxfordshire provide a fascinating teaching and learning base for Real estate. Not only with its proximity to London, but the recent developments of the Westgate shopping centre, development of Oxford's business and science parks, proximity to Bicester village, (the most successful retail environment in the world) allow for numerous case study examples on your Campus doorstep.

### Access to markets.

As part of your study of research methods, you are likely to attend a residential field trip based in a major European city. There is also a further opportunity to explore three cities in China and Southern Asia by electing to complete your studies through an Asian Studies Tour.. Apart from creating lifelong memories with their fellow students, each trip offers the ability to develop a clear understanding of the way in which unfamiliar property markets work and a practical way to engage with Research methodology and practice.

## **What will you learn about?**

Chartered Surveyors are highly trained and experienced **property** professionals. Surveyors offer impartial, specialist advice on a variety of property related issues and the services which they provide are diverse. The course will provide you with all the necessary skills and knowledge to excel in the real estate profession. It will prepare you to complete the Assessment of Professional Competence (APC) to become a Chartered Surveyor. It is essential that students understand the basis of law, development, planning, construction, valuation, investment, economics, and management and how they interrelate. These topics are what we call the foundation stones of real estate knowledge. The application of such knowledge will allow you to liaise meaningfully with architects and engineers, bankers and ecologists, town planners and property developers to engage with real estate, develop the built environment and

position yourself for the unprecedented change that the real estate industry is about to experience.

In every module, you will be taught both the theory and practice of key and emerging themes, and how they are embedded into every discipline of real estate. You will learn to take a holistic view about the importance of ESG (Environmental, social, and governance standards), sustainable development and sustainable impacts, the importance of stakeholder management, financial acumen, the impact of prop-tech and digital transformation business planning and how the development, management and use of real asset assets are constantly changing.

## Core topics

### Law and Professional Practice

You will gain legal knowledge to identify where issues might arise in real estate and the legal remedies available. It will also alert you to more significant problems where professional legal input may be required. To achieve this, you will be introduced to the following substantive areas of law, contract and tort law, professional negligence, occupier's liability, trespass and nuisance, English land law and landlord & tenant law for both commercial and residential leases. and the increasing important field of environmental law. You will also study what constitutes best professional practice including ethics and the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors' (RICS) Code of Conduct.

### Valuation and Investment

It is essential that students develop an understanding of the operation of the real estate investment markets in the context of the economy and wider financial markets. You will explore the various principles, approaches, methods, and techniques of valuation as related to real estate. These are linked to the assessment of investment worth so the techniques of valuation can be used within investment decision making. This understanding is built on to explore the role of property within a multi-asset portfolio. This includes transacting, financing, and structuring property investments (in the UK and internationally) including the use of debt and indirect investment vehicles. You will also learn to use excel spreadsheets to build valuation and investment models for portfolio analysis, as part of a wider understanding of the use of technology and IT within and its effect on the real estate sector.

### Built Environment Delivery

The built environment touches all aspects of our lives, encompassing the buildings we live in, the distribution systems that provide us with water and electricity, and the roads, bridges, and transportation systems we use to get from place to place. It can generally be described as the man-made or modified structures that provide people with living, working, and recreational spaces. We will explore how through good design, construction, and management, we can achieve sustainable outcomes that allow people to live well, reduce whole life carbon and materials costs through efficient use of resources (energy, waste, water) and provide environments that contribute to our physical and mental health and enhance creativity and productivity. Through your studies, you will develop an understanding of how the built environment is delivered holistically from initial conception of an idea through to planning, financial appraisal, and delivery.

### Business and Management

Understanding of the financial and business context in which a real estate organisation functions is essential. Your studies will include identifying the financial situation of a business, taxation, the functioning of property finance markets, market trends, and the efficiency of property markets. You will learn to develop techniques by which the financial performance of a real estate business can be evaluated, and real estate assets valued using accounting data. This includes the study of the economics of real estate markets and organisations, and the economic context within which they operate. You will also be able to analyse the implications of government economic policy for real estate markets. Having delivered a basic understanding of the key fundamentals of business, we will focus upon several practical, current, and real life scenarios faced by corporate and property managers in the private, public, and corporate sectors of the real estate industry. We study the skills required of a Chartered Surveyor when managing real estate from both a practical and strategic viewpoint.

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## Research and Projects

It is vitally important that the modern day Chartered Surveyor has an understanding of the growth, impact and nature of the globalization of property and that they understand the often complex differences between international cultures, environments, legal frameworks and real estate markets. Towards the end of your studies, you will take two corequisite research based modules that are delivered in a very relevant and practical way. These modules will help you understand these market differences, culminating in the delivery of a major project that will draw upon the main learning outcomes of the course,

### Applied Research

The module is a combination of real estate market analysis and research in a practical and contextualised environment.

Within semester 1 you will examine the real estate market systematically, analyse selected segments and sectors of markets, study research methods, and conduct assigned and self-directed research projects by assimilating the concepts and knowledge gained in the other taught modules throughout Semesters 1 and 2. The module provides exposure to both domestic (UK) and international markets.

Semester 2 includes a series of in-house seminars on international real estate research and you will have an opportunity to attend a 5 day organised field trip to an EU country. Seminar topics focus on Real estate research in an international context, with discussions and research undertaken on the American, Asian and European real estate markets

The module is a corequisite module with the Applied Project and complements the overall Master's programme by providing you with the opportunity to draw on all the other modules in the programme to inform and direct your choice of the options available to you in the Applied Project module (applied project, dissertation or study of the Asian region) and allowing you to pursue this interest through your own detailed research, using this research to support your own original contribution to the development of the disciplines germinal to the profession.

### Applied Project

As you approach the end of your programme, you will have the opportunity to apply what you have learnt over the programme into your final project. You have a choice of three alternative options that have been designed to offer you greater flexibility to accommodate completing the programme, whether you are based in the UK, internationally or in employment.

The Applied Project module has three optional pathways for completion of study.

1. Submission of Applied project of 10,000 words.
2. Submission of Dissertation of 10,000 words
3. Attendance on the Asian City Tour and submission of an Asian City Tour Report, 10,000 words

#### Option 1: Applied project

It comprises of an individual piece of work that will be based on

- 1) The real estate market in their own region e.g. Europe, Americas, Asia
- 2) If in employment, an individual piece of work on a sector or market they are working within.

A student will be expected to undertake the applied project topic that matches their chosen overall interest. Each pathway will then have sub-topics based upon the nature of work undertaken by Chartered Surveyors. These sub-topics will vary each year according to market conditions and topicality but could include:

- Investment and Finance
- Valuation and Investment
- Corporate Real Estate

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- Planning and Development
- Alternative sectors

#### Option 2: Dissertation

It is an individual academic study on a topic related to property, under a designated supervisor. The following process is observed:

- First three chapters submission (introduction, literature review and research design) and approval
- Fieldwork plan approval
- Submission of dissertation

#### Option 3: Asian Cities Study

Although an applied project and assessed on the same basis, this option combines an organised Asian cities field trip for students that would benefit from a structured programme of lectures, presentations, and project visits in the case study cities in RCEP countries. A minimum number of participants is required for this option to be viable. The three case study cities are from one of the following regions: ASEAN (Singapore), Northeast Asia (Seoul or Tokyo) and Mainland China (Shanghai, Beijing, Shenzhen, or Chengdu).

A student will be expected to conduct desktop research before embarking on the field trip, conduct field investigation in each of the cities, and complete the assessment (report). The applied project follows the requirements outlined in the applied project option, with topics covering the Asian cities visited.

Guidance will be given to the students on what is the most appropriate pathway to complete their studies, considering their performance to date, start date on the course, study mode and time available to complete their studies.

#### **How can the programme be studied?**

The MSc in Real Estate is available as both a one year full-time programme and in a part-time study/ distance learning mode (normally taken over three years, extendable up to a maximum of 5 years). Modules can be taken on-campus (i.e., face-to-face in a classroom), or in 'distance learning' mode for students studying part-time, using a Virtual Learning Environment (VLE). Students can enter (start) their programme in either September or January. The full MSc In Real Estate programme comprises four 30 credit modules, a Research Methods module (20 credits) and an Applied Project module which offers the student the option to conclude their studies by completing an applied project, dissertation, or Asian city tour (40 credits).

The Postgraduate Diploma in Real Estate award is available as a main and exit award, for which students must successfully complete the four compulsory 30 credit modules (*Law and Professional Practice, Valuation and Investment, Developing the Built Environment and Business and Management*). Students are anticipated to complete one module per semester.

For individuals not wishing to complete the full MSc or PG Diploma (4 x 30 credit modules) a PG Certificate (2 x 30 credit modules) award is available.

### **SECTION 3: PROGRAMME LEARNING OUTCOMES**

On successful completion of the programme, graduates will demonstrate the following Brookes Attributes:

#### **3.1 ACADEMIC LITERACY**

AL1	Critically interpret the significance of legal, economic, financial, and regulatory frameworks to stakeholders in real estate decision making
AL2	Analyse and evaluate 'risk and return' in the context of the financial analysis of real estate
AL3	Appraise and apply planning and environmental policy to achieve sustainable development.
AL4	Analyse business, corporate and built environments to assess, measure and strategically plan for the efficient use of real estate.

#### **3.2 RESEARCH LITERACY**

R1	Source and evaluate appropriate research data to produce informed debate
R2	Through research, analyse practical or live problems and/or challenges and apply real estate strategies and solutions.

#### **3.3 CRITICAL SELF-AWARENESS AND PERSONAL LITERACY**

C1	Using negotiation, mediation and presentational skills, employ reflexive practice to communicate effectively with diverse stakeholders
C2	When providing professional guidance in a surveying context. Comport themselves as a Property Professional

#### **3.4 DIGITAL AND INFORMATION LITERACY**

D1	Identify and synthesise appropriate market data using specific financial software and technology, to an industry standard, to support and inform decision making.
D2	Critically evaluate a range of digital media to support professional presentations
D3	Identify and synthesize changing attitudes, skills and applications of current and future technologies used within real estate.

#### **3.5 ACTIVE CITIZENSHIP**

AC1	Through, Critical evaluation of. international jurisdictions, markets, and the resultant impact of culture on decision-making within the local and global environment they will. appreciate and proactively engage with both local and global Communities
AC2	Critically appraise the interconnectedness of environmental issues and their impact on society at a global and local level to professionally influence real estate property decisions.
AC3	Understand the needs of all stakeholders in order to facilitate their participation in real estate processes and actions

### **SECTION 4: CURRICULUM CONTENT & STRUCTURE**

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#### 4.1 PROGRAMME STRUCTURE AND REQUIREMENTS:

Code	Module Title	Credits	Level	Status	Coursework: Exam ratio
REST7024	Law and Professional Practice	30	7	Compulsory	100% coursework
REST7025	Valuation and Investment	30	7	Compulsory	100% coursework
REST7026	Built Environment Delivery	30	7	Compulsory	100% coursework
REST7027	Business and Management	30	7	Compulsory	100% coursework
REST7028	Applied Research	20	7	Compulsory	100% coursework
REST7029	Applied Project	40	7	Compulsory (Three options of assessment)	100% coursework

#### 4.2 PROGRESSION AND AWARD REQUIREMENTS

##### MSc in Real Estate

All modules in the MSc in Real Estate programme are at Level 7 and are compulsory. Each student must successfully complete the modules listed above, giving a total of 180 credits.

Students may enter the programme either at the start of Semester 1 (September) or Semester 2 (January). Full-time students undertake two 30 credit modules per semester, plus Applied Research (10 credits) which runs across Semesters 1 and 2. Upon successful completion of the four core 30 credit modules plus the research methods module, students undertake an applied project or a dissertation (40 credits) either in the summer (for September entry) or in Semester 2 (for January entry).

Open learning students undertake one 30 credit module per semester plus Applied Research Methods across Semester 1 and 2 in Year 2. As with full-time students, upon successful completion of the four core 30 credit modules plus the Applied Research Methods module, open learning students undertake an applied project or a dissertation (40 credits) either in the summer (for September entry) or in Semester 2 (for January entry).

Accreditation is being sought from the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors (RICS) for the MSc in Real Estate to provide exemption from the educational requirements for membership of the RICS.

##### PG Diploma in In Real Estate

The Postgraduate Diploma in Real Estate is available as a main and exit award, for which students must successfully complete the four compulsory 30 credit modules (*Law and Professional Practice, Valuation and Investment, Developing the Built Environment and Business and Management*) This gives a total of 120 Level 7 credits.

Accreditation is being sought from the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors (RICS) for the PG Diploma in Real Estate to provide exemption from the educational requirements for membership of the RICS when combined with either a RICS partially accredited postgraduate specialist course, or a RICS approved undergraduate programme.

##### PG Certificate in In Real Estate

The Postgraduate Certificate in Real Estate requires successful completion of two of the four 30 credit modules (i.e., two out of *Law and Professional Practice, Valuation and Investment, Developing the Built Environment and Business and Management*). This gives a total of 60 Level 7 credits.

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The Postgraduate Certificate in Real Estate does not carry professional accreditation status.

#### **4.3 PROFESSIONAL REQUIREMENTS**

Accreditation is being sought from the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors (RICS) for:

- The MSc to provide exemption from the educational requirements for membership of the RICS.
- The PG Diploma in Real Estate to provide exemption from the educational requirements for membership of the RICS, when combined with either a RICS partially accredited postgraduate specialist course, or a RICS-approved undergraduate programme at Oxford Brookes University

Accreditation is being sought from the Royal Institute of Chartered Surveyors (RICS) for the MSc In Real Estate to provide exemption from the educational requirements for membership of the RICS.

The MSc In Real Estate Programme has been mapped against the knowledge and skills required by the RICS for full accreditation, as well as the knowledge, skills and experience required by the RICS under the Commercial Real Estate and Valuation pathways.

## **SECTION 5: TEACHING AND ASSESSMENT**

Overall, the MSc In Real Estate programme and its embedded Programme Learning Outcomes (outlined in Section 3) have been designed to facilitate student learning through the development of five core Graduate Attributes that all postgraduate programmes are mapped against at Oxford Brookes University: Academic Literacy; Research Literacy; Critical self-awareness and personal literacy; Digital and information literacy; and Active citizenship. Within this framework, a variety of teaching and learning approaches are used to deliver a theoretically informed but practice-focused programme that equips students with the knowledge and skills they need to enter and succeed in professional practice.

### **What types of learning activities will I be involved in?**

The MSc In Real Estate programme will typically involve students in the following types of learning activities:

#### Lectures

Lectures provide students with an introduction to key concepts, debates, issues, techniques, and tools in relation to Real Estate theory and practice. Delivered both by academic staff members and industry practitioners, lectures expose students to a wide variety of topics, ideas, projects, and perspectives. Lectures are simultaneously delivered face-to-face in classrooms and online for distance learners. Recordings are made available through the Virtual Learning Environment.

#### Seminars

Seminars and online discussion forums provide the opportunity for students to deepen and apply their knowledge of Real Estate theory and practice through small group discussions, debates, and presentations. Seminars and discussion forums will typically be linked to lecture material and/or the content of specified readings. Seminars will typically be simultaneously delivered face-to-face in classrooms and online for distance learners. Online discussion forums may need to be substituted for seminars for distance learners in certain circumstances.

#### Presentations

Presentations facilitate the development of core communication skills for professional practice. As a built environment practitioner, it is essential that you can clearly communicate your ideas and perspectives to other people from diverse backgrounds. Conducted both face-to-face in classrooms and online, presentations are a feature of several modules in the MSc In Real Estate.

#### Workshops

Workshops and studios provide students with the opportunity to develop practical and professional skills through participation in exercises, tasks and activities that simulate real-world situations and scenarios in Real Estate practice (e.g., development management, planning inquiries, site studies and design processes). Workshops on the MSc In Real Estate programme are typically linked to specific lecture content or assessment tasks and enable students to 'learn by doing'.

#### Problem Based Learning (PBL).

The PBL approach enables students to develop a whole range of management skills and knowledge. It is achieved through guided working on real-life or reality based problems as experienced within the real estate sector and its associated industries, consultants, and clients. Not only is PBL an extremely effective way of teaching, it is also more interesting and engaging than the traditional 'study and examination' approach to learning.

#### Virtual Learning Environment (VLE)

Working within the VLE is a key aspect of the MSc In Real Estate programme for all students. The VLE is used to support learning in a variety of ways. It is used within modules to share teaching and learning materials such as lecture recordings and reading lists, to host discussion forums, make announcements and provide assessment feedback.

#### Induction Week

An Induction in the week prior to the start of semester (September or January) provides new starters with an introduction to the programme and embeds the core themes that run through the heart of each

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module (stakeholder management, ESG, sustainability, digital transformation, and prop-tech, and emerging and changing asset classes). The induction consists of a series of live talks and group activities, as well as a package of online information and learning resources. It is not compulsory to attend the induction activities or access the online resources, although this is strongly encouraged. However, the induction does serve as a useful resource to orient you to your course and subject area, as well as providing the opportunity to meet both your teaching team and classmates.

### Intensive Study weeks.

Students enjoy a week of exploration outside of regular classes during an Intensive Study Week (ISW) in week 3 of each semester. Groups of students and faculty embark on a variety of fascinating projects, seminars and guest lectures that challenge the mind and certainly rejuvenate the spirit. The programme will include additional intensive study periods wherein full time and distance learners come together on campus to attend lectures, seminars, and workshops and to share experiences. This allows all cohorts to network and build lasting synergies to serve them throughout their careers. It is proposed that these intensive study weeks will offer all students, of whichever discipline across the school, the opportunity to collaborate with the wider school cohort network, embrace a wider curriculum, and explore topics of individual interest (e.g., planning, urban design, construction, and architecture). Course lectures, seminars and workshops will also run within this week as scheduled.

### **What does the coursework involve?**

The assessment strategy for the MSc In Real Estate Programme combines academic rigour with real-world relevance. To develop and assess the wide-ranging skills and knowledge needed in professional practice, a variety of assessment methods is used. These include academic essays, professional reports, and other written tasks; presentations; scenario-based exercises involving such things as pitching for the management of a large property asset, reporting to a client regarding a problem based scenario and participation in a mock planning inquiry; in addition to the experience gained through the field trips and assessment. In line with the Oxford Brookes assessment and feedback policy, assessment tasks have been designed at a programme level to achieve a high level of variety and complementarity. There are no formal examinations in the programme, although some modules will require you to complete an online timed controlled assessment. (OTCA).

Students are provided with information about their current performance, as well as opportunities for potential improvement, through both formative and summative feedback from teaching staff. The programme team regard assessing and providing feedback on coursework as a continuous process. As such, there are opportunities for students to obtain formative feedback on their work in all compulsory modules. Meanwhile, the emphasis in summative feedback is on helping students identify both their strengths and positive achievements, as well as areas for improvement. Students in the programme are in various ways encouraged to engage in dialogue with teaching staff in relation to assessment tasks, with certain modules also including aspects of peer review; students providing feedback on the work of their classmates. Outside of specific modules, further support on assessment is available to students through their Academic Advisor and the Oxford Brookes [Centre for Academic Development](#).

### **What will my workload be like in a typical week?**

As a full-time student, during the semester, you will have one weekly teaching day for each of the two 30 credit compulsory modules. This teaching day will typically consist of four to five hours of teaching time split variously between lectures, discussions, seminars, presentations, and workshops. Additionally, a further day is allocated for delivery of research methods, guest lectures and UK based field trips. Outside the module contact hours, you will be expected to undertake independent learning, including in relation to coursework assignments. This independent study might include, for example, reading and research, writing, the review of online material, and group meetings. Additionally, most weeks you will have the opportunity to attend additional guest lectures and organised study days, some of which may involve an overnight stay. or travel across the UK.

Part-time students on the MSc In Real Estate Programme may study on-campus or through distance learning. For those studying on-campus, during the semester, you will have one weekly teaching day for the compulsory 30 credit module in which you are enrolled. This teaching day will typically consist of four or five hours of teaching time split variously between lectures, discussions, seminars, presentations, and

workshops. Distance learners will participate in the same modules as those part-time students studying on-campus. They will have the opportunity to participate in 'real-time' in the scheduled lectures, seminars, discussions, and workshops taking place on campus. However, sessions will also be recorded, wherever possible, and made available online for those distance learners who wish to engage with them at the times and pace that suit them. For distance learners not participating synchronously in modules, there will therefore be a greater element of self-directed learning and less face-to-face contact with peers. Recognising this, weekly drop-in tutorial times are scheduled specifically for distance learning students.

In addition to the weekly teaching schedule, all students are expected to engage fully with the induction week and intensive study week programmes, held each semester.

The induction week offers the opportunity to study on-campus or through distance learning with structured activities and reading throughout the week. The intensive study week requires all students to attend the Heading campus for a minimum of two days, depending on which module they are currently studying.

## **SECTION 6: ADMISSION TO THE PROGRAMME**

### **6.1 ENTRY REQUIREMENTS**

The programme is open to applicants who hold a first class or upper second class honours degree or equivalent. We will also consider applications from candidates with lower second class honours degrees where relevant real estate experience can be demonstrated. Applications will also be considered from those who have no first degree but can demonstrate three or more years of professional experience in real estate.

Where applicants have a language other than English as their mother tongue, a minimum IELTS score of 6.5 is necessary, or other appropriate evidence of English language skills, both oral and written, that meets the University's and Programme's requirements.

### **6.2 DBS AND OTHER PRE-COURSE CHECKS REQUIRED**

Not applicable.

## **SECTION 7: PREPARATION FOR EMPLOYMENT**

The MSc In Real Estate Programme has been designed in close consultation with professional institutes and industry practitioners to ensure that it responds to the requirements and expectations of potential employers. Most graduates from the programme will go on to become Chartered Surveyors working in the public and/or private sector (e.g., major international real estate consultancies and smaller firms) although a significant number do move into related fields such as management companies, banks, financial institutions, government bodies and corporates.

While the programme is therefore primarily targeted to individuals seeking to develop a career in real estate, the curriculum and teaching team are interdisciplinary and the knowledge and skills developed by students are highly transferable across both disciplinary and institutional boundaries.

Students in the programme are exposed to a rich mix of real-world examples and situations through guest lectures, case studies and various scenario-based exercises and assessment tasks. What this means is that our graduates are 'work-ready' and well-prepared to make a positive contribution within their profession. The types and standards of assessment in the programme are regularly monitored and reviewed by our two external examiners, one of whom is a senior real estate practitioner. There is further industry input into the programme through the Professional Liaison Group (PLG) which comprises several experienced practitioners, as well as representatives from academia and the RICS.

The programme also provides a range of opportunities for professional networking. In addition to interacting in class with their teaching staff and guest contributors from industry, students will often establish professional relationships with their classmates – many of whom are already in employment in real estate or related areas. Full-time and part-time students – both those studying on-campus and through distance learning – can meet one another in numerous ways: at induction sessions; through group coursework assignments and online discussion forums; as well as in seminars, workshops, field trips and site visits. Our students also can develop both their academic and professional networks through attendance at the many lectures, research seminars and professional events hosted by the School, including those run in association with the RICS.

In addition to the support of the sponsors, the programme also has strong links with other employers. Each October, the University runs a property careers fair with over 50 firms attending. In addition, every week in the Autumn semester, there are presentations and various social evenings hosted by many of the main firms. The teaching staff have excellent contacts with the industry and many field trips are hosted by principal players in the private and public sector. There are also regular presentations from outside speakers from all areas of the industry.

The alumni of the School are also very active in the form of Oxford Brookes Real Estate Management Society (OBREMS) with over 2,000 members. The alumni contribute to the programme in several ways; in discussions about the development of the programme; informal contact with the current cohort; speaking at formal events and providing prizes for outstanding work.

The profile of employment success for international students is equally strong albeit there is normally a lag between them returning home to secure employment and the end of the programme as many go travelling or chose to remain in the UK until their visa expires. UK graduates with a second language have also found employment abroad with international surveying companies.

The programme's links with the major surveying firms is one of its key strengths. The teaching team provides a strong professional emphasis to the core subjects underpinned by a rigorous academic approach. They are supported by external speakers, field trips and management support from the industry employers, provided by seven of the major international real estate consultancies who sponsor the programme: CBRE, Cluttons, Cushman & Wakefield, GVA, JLL, Knight Frank and Savills.

More broadly, the School of the Built Environment has a well-established relationship with the Oxford Brookes University Careers Centre. Together, they organise a major built environment careers fair each autumn, where students can approach a wide range of planning, construction, and real estate

organisations. Students in the MSc In Real Estate programme are also encouraged to use the various facilities offered independently by the Careers Centre, including CV builders and interview simulators.