BSc (Hons) Construction and the Built Environment

Programme Specification

2025-2026

Contents

1. INTRODUCTION

This document describes the **BSc (Hons) Construction and the Built Environment** awarded by Richmond American University London, using the protocols required by *The Frameworks for Higher Education Qualifications of UK Degree-Awarding Bodies* (QAA, 2024).

The degree is delivered within the framework of a UK undergraduate degree programme. Typically, learners are admitted with the equivalent of 96 UK RQF Level 3 credits and take the 360 UK credit programme over three years.

The degrees are also articulated in terms of UK Regulatory Frameworks, chiefly the *FHEQ* and the *Higher Education Credit Framework for England*. Each course has been assigned to an appropriate level on the *FHEQ*, based on the course's learning outcomes and assessment strategies.

Please note: This specification provides a concise summary of the main features of the programme and the learning outcomes that a typical learner might reasonably be expected to achieve and demonstrate if they take full advantage of the learning opportunities that are provided.

More detailed information on the learning outcomes, content, and teaching, learning and assessment methods of each course can be found in course specification documents and syllabi.

The accuracy of the information contained in this document is reviewed by the University and may be verified by the Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education.

2. OVERVIEW

Programme/award title(s)	BSc (Hons) Construction and the Built Environment
Teaching Institution	Francis James Ltd.
Awarding Institution	Richmond American University London
Date of last validation	July 2025 (approved for 4 years)
Next revalidation	2029
Credit points for the award	360 UK Credits at *FHEQ* Levels 4-6
UCAS Code	University Code: *CODE*
Programme start date	1st September 2025
Underpinning QAA subject benchmark(s)	https://www.qaa.ac.uk/docs/qaa/sbs/sbs-land-construction-real-estate-and-surveying-24.pdf?sfvrsn=bc02b481_4
Professional/statutory recognition	Awaiting Joint Board of Moderators (JBM) https://www.jbm.org.uk/ recognition outcome: The **Institution of Civil Engineers**, the **Institution of Structural Engineers**, the **Chartered Institution of Highways and Transportation,** the **Institute of Highway Engineers** and the **Permanent Way Institution** together represent some 100,000 of the world's leading professional engineers.
Language of Study	English
Duration of the programme for each mode of study (P/T, FT, DL)	FT, PT & D/L
Accreditation (if applicable)	
Date of production/ revision of this specification	August 2025 (see chart at the end of this document for list of revisions)

3. ABOUT THE PROGRAMME

The Francis James Level 6 BSc (Hons) in Construction and the Built Environment provides professional development routes to enhance knowledge of construction principles, practices, and processes within five discrete pathways.

Our qualifications are built on extensive research and are designed to enable those who wish to progress their career within the Construction and related sectors. Our approach is focused on the needs of learners, giving them the skills and knowledge to excel within their chosen field of employment. We want to equip future leaders in construction and the built environment with advanced knowledge, sustainable practices, and innovative solutions, enabling them to create a lasting positive impact on infrastructure and communities worldwide.

Francis James has identified gaps in the market for this type of qualification caused by other awarding organisations ceasing to be involved in this type of qualification and, also, only focusing on large-scale subscriber groups.

4. MISSION

Our qualifications are meticulously designed and underpinned by extensive research, collaboration with industry leaders, and alignment with the latest professional standards. They are specifically crafted to address the dynamic and evolving needs of the Construction and related sectors, ensuring relevance in an ever-changing industry. By integrating academic rigour with real world case studies, we equip learners with a comprehensive skill set that bridges the gap between theoretical knowledge and application.

Our learner-centred approach focuses on fostering critical thinking, problem-solving, and adaptability, enabling individuals to thrive in a competitive job market. Each qualification is tailored to support career progression, whether learners aim to develop technical expertise, transition into leadership roles, or specialise in emerging areas such as sustainability and digital construction.

In addition to technical and sector-specific training, our programmes emphasise the development of transferable skills such as communication, teamwork, and time management, ensuring learners are prepared for diverse challenges within and beyond the construction industry. By promoting lifelong learning and professional development, we empower individuals to take ownership of their career paths, drive innovation, and contribute meaningfully to their organisations and communities.

5. PROGRAMME STRUCTURE

BSc (Hons) Construction and the Built Environment

Total Qualification Time (TQT): for each level (4,5 & 6)	1200 hrs
Guided learning hours (GLH): for each level (4,5 & 6)	480 hrs
Credit value: for each level (4,5 & 6)	120 credits

The **BSc (Hons) Construction and the Built Environment** will offer candidates a qualification designed around a common core with specific pathways to support progression into several relevant occupational areas as follows:

i. BSc (Hons) in Construction and the Built Environment (The Built Environment)
ii. BSc (Hons) in Construction and the Built Environment (Quantity Surveying)
iii. BSc (Hons) in Construction and the Built Environment (Building Services Engineering)
iv. BSc (Hons) in Construction and the Built Environment (Civil Engineering)
v. BSc (Hons) in Construction and the Built Environment (Construction Management)

Each of the five pathways has been developed to enable practical skills development alongside the development of knowledge and understanding required to prepare for/progress in employment in a respective construction discipline.

5.1 Achieving this Qualification

To be awarded the Francis James BSc Construction and the Built Environment, learners must complete 7 courses at level 6 (5 core, 1 mandatory specific to the chosen pathway, and 1 optional relating to the chosen pathway), plus 8 courses at levels 4 and 5 if they do not already have level 4 and 5 qualifications.

The choice of courses will depend on the selected pathway as outlined below.

FHEQ Level 4			
Course Code	**Course Type**	**Course Title**	**UK Credits**
Level 4 Core Courses for All Pathways: 7 Courses, Credit Total =			**105**
401	Core	Innovative Construction Technologies and Methods	15
402	Core	Managing Construction Projects: Principles and Practices	15
403	Core	Understanding Building Codes and Compliance Standards	15
404	Core	Sustainable Building Methods: Design and Implementation	15
406	Core	Applied Mathematics in Construction and Engineering	15
407	Core	Computer-Aided Design (CAD) in Construction: Applications and Techniques	15
412	Core	Personal and Professional Development	15
Level 4 Mandatory Course(s): 1 Course for Each Pathway, Credit Total =			**15**
408	Mandatory: Quantity Surveying	Quantity Surveying Techniques: Measurement and Estimation	15
409	Mandatory: Building Services Engineering	Building Services Engineering: Systems and Sustainability	15
410	Mandatory: Civil Engineering	Civil Engineering: Theory and Practice	15
411	Mandatory: Construction Management	Construction Management: Planning and Control	15
FHEQ Level 4 Credit Total:			**120**
Completing the courses in this table fulfills the requirements for the CertHE award			

FHEQ Level 5			
Course Code	**Course Type**	**Course Title**	**UK Credits**
Level 5 Core Courses for All Pathways: 6 Courses, Credit Total =			**90**
501	Core	Supply Chain Management and Procurement	15
502	Core	Economics for Construction and the Built Environment	15
505	Core	Sustainable Construction and Environmental Impacts	15
513	Core	Mathematical Methods in Construction Projects	15
514	Core	Engineering for Construction: Theory and Practice	15
506	Core	Personal and Professional Development	15
Level 5 Mandatory Courses: 2 Courses for Each Pathway, Credit Total =			**30**
511	Mandatory: Quantity Surveying	Quantity Surveying for Construction, Renovation and Refurbishment	15
512	Mandatory: Quantity Surveying	Advanced Quantities for Complex Building Projects	15
509	Mandatory: Building Services Engineering	Advanced HVAC Design and Installation	15
510	Mandatory: Building Services Engineering	Advanced Electrical Design and Installation	15
507	Mandatory: Civil Engineering	Geotechnics and Soil Mechanics	15
508	Mandatory: Civil Engineering	Highways Engineering	15
503	Mandatory: Construction Management	Resource Management in Construction	15
504	Mandatory: Construction Management	Construction Data Management	15
FHEQ Level 5 Credit Total:			**120**
Completing the courses in this table fulfills the requirements for a DipHE award			

FHEQ Level 6			
Course Code	**Course Type**	**Course Title**	**UK Credits**
Level 6 Core Courses for All Pathways: 5 Courses, Credit Total =			**90**
601	Core	Construction Group Project	30
602	Core	Technical Innovation in the Construction Industry	15
603	Core	Theory and Practice of Leadership and Management in the Construction Industry	15
617	Core	Construction Financial Management	15
619	Core	Personal and Professional Development	15
Level 6 Mandatory Course(s): 1 Course for Each Pathway, Credit Total =			**15**
604	Mandatory: Construction and the Built Environment	Asset Management in Construction and the Built Environment	15
607	Mandatory: Quantity Surveying	Advanced Quantities for Complex Buildings and Infrastructure Projects	15
610	Mandatory: Building Services Engineering	Building Services Design and Technology	15
613	Mandatory: Civil Engineering	Civil Engineering Design and Technology	15
616	Mandatory: Construction Management	Managing Resources for Building Works	15
Level 6 Optional Courses: Choose 1 of 2 Courses for Each Pathway, Credit Total =			**15**
605	Optional: Construction and the Built Environment	Project Management in Construction	15
606	Optional: Construction and the Built Environment	Regulatory Controls in Construction and the Built Environment	15
608	Optional: Quantity Surveying	Cost Planning and Estimating	15
609	Optional: Quantity Surveying	Procurement Strategies and Financial Management	15
611	Optional: Building Services Engineering	Install and Commission Electrical and Electronic Services	15
612	Optional: Building Services Engineering	Install and Commission Mechanical Services	15
614	Optional: Civil Engineering	Designing and Building Highways	15
615	Optional: Civil Engineering	Plan and Design Transport System Solutions	15

605	Optional: Construction Management	Project Management in Construction	15
618	Optional: Construction Management	Critical Evaluation in Construction Management	15
FHEQ Level 6 Credit Total:			**120**

6. PROGRAMME OUTCOMES

Programme-level learning outcomes are identified below. Please refer to the Curriculum Map at the end of this document for details of how outcomes are deployed across the study programme.

6.1 Programme Outcomes

A. Disciplinary Knowledge and Understanding
B. Disciplinary Applied Skills
C. Communication Skills
D. Applied Skills

Disciplinary Knowledge and Understanding (A)

i) Understanding Construction Principles

Demonstrate a comprehensive understanding of the scientific, technical, and engineering principles underpinning construction processes, materials, and methods, including sustainable practices and innovations in the field.

ii) Knowledge of Construction Management and Economics

Apply knowledge of project management, procurement, contracts, and financial principles to effectively plan, manage, and deliver construction projects within scope, budget, and time constraints.

iii) Regulatory and Legal Frameworks

Understand and critically evaluate the regulatory, legal, and safety frameworks governing construction, including health and safety standards, building codes, and environmental regulations.

Disciplinary Applied Skills (B)

i) Project Design and Delivery

Apply technical knowledge and skills to design, plan, and execute construction projects, utilising modern tools, techniques, and software to address real-world challenges and ensure efficient project delivery.

ii) Problem-Solving in Construction Contexts

Analyse complex construction scenarios to identify issues, develop innovative solutions, and implement effective strategies to overcome technical, logistical, and resource-related challenges.

iii) Sustainable Construction Practices

Integrate principles of sustainability and environmental stewardship into construction projects, ensuring resource efficiency, minimising environmental impact, and promoting resilience in built environments.

Communication Skills (C)

i) Professional Report Writing and Documentation

Develop the ability to produce clear, concise, and professional construction-related documents, including project reports, technical specifications, and tender submissions, in accordance with industry standards.

ii) Effective Communication with Stakeholders

Demonstrate the ability to present complex construction concepts and project updates to a variety of stakeholders, including clients, team members, and regulatory authorities, using verbal, visual, and written communication methods.

iii) Conflict Resolution and Negotiation Skills

Apply effective communication techniques to resolve disputes, negotiate agreements, and foster collaboration among project stakeholders to ensure successful project outcomes.

Transferrable Skills (D)

i) Critical Thinking and Problem-Solving

Develop the ability to analyse complex problems, evaluate potential solutions, and implement effective strategies across various professional and real-world scenarios.

ii) Teamwork and Collaboration

Demonstrate the capacity to work effectively within multidisciplinary teams, fostering cooperation, managing conflict, and achieving shared objectives in diverse working environments.

iii) Time Management and Organisation

Cultivate strong organisational skills to prioritise tasks, meet deadlines, and manage resources efficiently, ensuring productivity and success in dynamic and fast-paced settings.

7. TEACHING, LEARNING, AND ASSESSMENT

7.1 Teaching Strategy

The teaching and learning strategy for the **BSc (Hons) Construction and the Built Environment** is based on the understanding that all learners are active learners and researchers and are embarking on advanced professional practice with a view to their future career development. This is designed to maximise learner engagement in the programme and ensure full participation throughout. The precise approach will vary from course to course, but the learning outcomes relating to each class are designed to ensure that learners immerse themselves fully in the subject and take full responsibility for their progress through the programme. The concept of progression through the distinct aspects of the degree (class-based learning focusing on theory and practice, guided independent study and practical work, internship and professional research project including a critical reflection) is integral to the intellectual journey that the learners will make during their time on the programme.

A variety of approaches will be used in teaching, including:

- Formal seminars and debates
- Formal lectures, supplemented with online materials
- Informal lectures and discussions with guest speakers or on visits
- Individual and group projects, culminating in oral presentations and written work
- Group and individual tutorials
- Self-directed and directed reading

Learner knowledge will be acquired through:

- Structured seminars and debates (including the sharing of other learners' learning and experience), lectures, guest lectures, visits to agencies – including supporting materials
- Directed reading and use of electronic sources
- Independent research and work experience

Learner thinking skills are developed through:

- Undertaking practical exercises and making presentations
- Learning alongside others, including group work, seminars, debates and discussions
- Conducting research
- Preparing assessed work

Learner practical skills are developed through:

- Applying theory to practice in practical exercises and assessed work
- Specific training related to PR and journalism and related fields, including the use of different media
- Team and individual project work and reflection thereon
- Vocational experience gained through internships

Francis James welcomes applications from learners with disabilities. These disabilities might include a physical or sensory impairment, a medical or psychiatric condition or a specific learning difficulty such as dyslexia and may require additional support or adaptations to our facilities. The University endeavours to make all practical and reasonable adjustments to ensure learners can fully participate in the University community.

7.2 Assessment Strategy

The assessment strategies we use with our **BSc (Hons) Construction and the Built Environment** degree speak directly to how we anticipate progression with learner learning to take place.

Assessment is by: assignments and other forms of written work; oral presentations; group work; and, projects and this assessment strategy meets the University Assessment Norms at levels 4, 5 and 6.

As seen above, Francis James places considerable emphasis on developing its learners' learning and skills. Creating independent thinkers is a part of the mission and academic staff deliver on this promise in several different ways at this level. A key aspect of their work involves devising methodologies, consistent with best-practice approaches within the field, with which to adequately assess learners' performance. These approaches include the setting of learning outcomes encompassing each course as well as regular discussion and interaction amongst academic staff to set common goals for the entire degree and each of its courses.
A key part of the programme's efforts to maintain an appropriate approach to assessment involves the use of grade descriptors (made available in the Course Specification Documents and Syllabi). This

information allows the learner to see the expected level of performance that co-relates with a particular letter grade summarising overall achievement level. The programme also has a formalised system of exit questionnaires and feedback meetings punctuated at key moments throughout the year for its learners as a framework through which the views and opinions of those who have experienced the programme, as learners, can be captured and responded to.

8. ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

Details of the entry requirements, including English language requirements, may be found within the Francis James Admissions Policy.

For the **BSc (Hons) Construction and the Built Environment**, all learners who are non-native English speakers and who have not undertaken their final two years of schooling in English, must demonstrate capability in English at a standard equivalent to the levels identified below, before being recruited to the programme:

- Common European Framework of Reference (CEFR) level B2
- PTE 51
- IELTS 5.5; Reading and Writing must be at 5.5 or equivalent.

All learners will also need to have already completed a level 2 maths GCSE or equivalent qualification at current Grade 4/C or above.

9. EXIT AWARD REQUIREMENTS

An exit award is defined as a lower award than one for which the learner is registered. Such an award may be conferred if a learner completes part, but not all, of the requirements of the programme for which he or she is registered. Learners may not enter the university registered for an exit award.

Certificate of Higher Education: Level 4 CertHE Construction and the Built Environment (UK)

The UK CertHE can be awarded as an exit award for those learners completing the following minimum requirements:

- 120 credits at FHEQ Level 4
    - Pass
    - Merit
    - Distinction

Of the total number of credits required for the UK CertHE, 60 UK credits can be completed at a validated partner institution. The requirements for the UK CertHE are outlined in the table above pertaining to FHEQ Level 4 requirements.

Diploma of Higher Education: Level 5 DipHE Construction and the Built Environment (UK)

The UK DipHE can be awarded as an exit award for those learners completing the following minimum requirements:

- 120 credits at FHEQ Level 4
- 120 credits at FHEQ Level 5
    - Pass
    - Merit
    - Distinction

Of the total number of credits required for the UK DipHE, 60 UK Level 4 credits and 60 UK Level 5 credits must be completed at the University.

The requirements for the UK DipHE are outlined in the section of the table above pertaining to FHEQ Level 4 and FHEQ Level 5 requirements. Level 6 courses can be "dipped down" to fulfil missing Level 5 credits.

Learners may not be awarded more than one UK exit award and the University Examination Board will recommend the most relevant one for the individual learner circumstance.

10. LEARNER SUPPORT AND GUIDANCE

There is a range of learner support and guidance, for both academic and general wellbeing, available to learners. This is accomplished through a range of programmes and services that positively impact learning as well as the total learners experience.

All learners have an allocated full-time faculty member who acts as their Programme Director. Programme Directors have on-going responsibility for learners' academic progress, meeting with each learner at least once a quarter. Programme Directors assist learners with registration, enabling smooth progression through the degree. They also advise on career opportunities and provide pastoral support in many cases.

A range of Maths, English, Technology and Writing workshops have been established to support learners with needs in these areas.

The University endeavours to make all practical and reasonable adjustments to ensure learners can fully participate in the Francis James community. Learners who declare a physical disability or a special educational need are supported to ensure the quality of their educational experience meets their individual requirements.

11. LIBRARY RESOURCES

Books

Faculty and learners are encouraged to help in the purchase of library resources by submitting requests for new purchases relating to and supporting their subject areas and research.

Francis James also purchases academic eBooks to support learners' required reading, as well as cataloguing open access resources. These books are made available through the learning management system (LMS)

Every year, the library collection is reviewed and non-relevant or out of date stock is withdrawn. Analysis of loans compared to purchases and new publications within core subject areas are used to drive additional purchases to make sure that the collection remains relevant and current.

Journals

At present the library subscribes directly to many periodical titles. Where electronic access is provided with a subscription this has been made available through the learning management system (LMS).

In consultation with faculty Francis James regularly reviews its periodical subscriptions, ensuring relevant coverage is provided as the curriculum changes.

Online journal databases and other online resources

Access to the e-journal databases and other online resources can be found on the Francis James learning management system (LMS)

12. REGULATORY FRAMEWORK

The **BSc (Hons) Construction and the Built Environment** is operated under the policy and regulatory frameworks of Richmond American University London, the Framework of Higher Education Qualifications, the Office for Students conditions and the UK Quality Code for Higher Education.

Also, key to the background for this description are the following documents:

- QAA (2024). The Revised UK Quality Code for Higher Education. (www.qaa.ac.uk)
- QAA (2021). Higher Education Credit Framework for England: guidance on academic credit arrangements in Higher Education in England.
- SEEC (2021). Credit Level Descriptors for Higher Education. Southern England Consortium for Credit Accumulation and Transfer (www.seec.org.uk).

12.1 Ensuring and Enhancing the Quality of the Programme

The **BSc (Hons) Construction and the Built Environment** features detailed published educational objectives that are consistent with the mission of the institution**.** All course outlines contain course specific objectives that are regularly monitored by the individual instructors and by the faculty as a group.

The University has several methods for evaluating and improving the quality and standards of its provision. These include:

- External Examiners
- Internal Moderation
- Learner representation
- Curricular change approval process
- Annual Programme Monitoring and Assessment
- Formal Programme Review, every five years
- Course evaluation
- Learner satisfaction surveys
- Feedback from employers

BSc (Hons) Construction and the Built Environment is maintained through a system of ongoing evaluations that demonstrate achievement of the programme's objectives and uses the results to improve the effectiveness of the programme.

APPENDIX 1 Curriculum Map

Course Code	Course Title	Disciplinary Knowledge and understanding (A)			Disciplinary Applied Skills (B)			Communication Skills (C)			Transferrable Skills (D)		
		I	II	III	I	II	III	I	II	III	I	II	III
FHEQ Level 4													
401	Innovative Construction Technologies and Methods	x					x				x		
402	Managing Construction Projects: Principles and Practices		x		x	x			x		x		
403	Understanding Building Codes and Compliance Standards						x	x					
404	Sustainable Building Methods: Design and Implementation	x			x		x				x		x
406	Applied Mathematics in Construction and Engineering		x								x		
407	Computer-Aided Design (CAD) in Construction: Applications and Techniques	x			x	x			x			x	
408	Quantity Surveying Techniques: Measurement and Estimation	x	x								x		x
409	Building Services Engineering: Systems and Sustainability	x			x		x				x		
410	Civil Engineering: Theory and Practice	x	x		x	x		x			x		
411	Construction Management: Planning and Control		x	x	x	x	x	x	x		x		
412	Personal and Professional Development							x	x		x	x	x

FHEQ Level 5													
501	Supply Chain Management and Procurement			x			x		x	x		x	
502	Economics for Construction and the Built Environment		x	x		x	x				x		
503	Resource Management in Construction	x	x						x	x	x		
504	Construction Data Management		x			x		x	x				
505	Sustainable Construction and Environmental Impacts	x		x		x	x		x		x		
506	Personal and Professional Development							x	x		x	x	x
507	Geotechnics and Soil Mechanics	x			x	x						x	
508	Highways Engineering	x	x	x	x						x		
509	Advanced Heating, Ventilation and Air Conditioning Design and Installation	x			x	x			x		x	x	x
510	Advanced Electrical Design and Installation	x			x	x			x		x	x	x
511	Quantity Surveying for Construction, Renovation and Refurbishment	x	x		x				x			x	x
512	Advanced Quantities for Complex Building Projects	x	x								x	x	x
513	Mathematical Methods in Construction Projects	x	x		x	x					x		
514	Engineering for Construction: Theory and Practice	x			x	x		x			x		

FHEQ Level 6													
601	Group Construction Project		x		x	x	x	x	x	x		x	x
602	Technical Innovation in the Construction Industry	x				x	x	x			x		
603	The Theory and Practice of Leadership and Management in the Construction Industry		x	x			x	x	x	x		x	x
604	Asset Management in Construction and the Built Environment	x	x	x				x			x		
605	Project Management in Construction		x		x	x		x	x	x	x	x	x
606	Regulatory Controls in Construction and the Built Environment	x	x		x			x		x			
607	Advanced Quantities for Complex Buildings and Infrastructure Projects		x			x		x			x		
608	Cost Planning and Estimating		x		x			x			x		
609	Procurement Strategies and Financial Management		x	x		x			x		x		
610	Building Services Design and Technology	x	x		x	x	x	x					
611	Install and Commission Electrical and Electronic Services	x				x		x				x	x
612	Install and Commission Mechanical Services	x				x		x				x	x
613	Civil Engineering Design and Technology	x			x	x		x					
614	Designing and Building Highways	x			x	x				x			
615	Plan and Design Transport System Solutions	x			x		x		x		x		

616	Managing Resources for Building Works		x		x			x	x	x	x	x	x
617	Construction Financial Management		x	x	x			x			x		
618	Critical Evaluation in Construction Management		x	x				x	x	x	x	x	x
619	Personal and Professional Development							x	x		x	x	x

Programme Specification Version Dates

Approved by RAUL Academic Board in preparation for programme validation	March 2025
Revised in response to the *Validation Technical Correction* request	August 2025