

Progression Map for Construction and the Built Environment

Level	Qualification Types	Qualifications	Career Paths	Skills	Labour Market
Levels 7 & 8 Higher Professional.	Doctorates, Masters and Post-graduate Diplomas, NVQ 5.	Construction Financial Management Post Graduate Diploma. BSc (Hons) 3yr FT/4yr SW Construction Economics / Construction Management HND 2yr FT Building Studies Foundation Degrees, e.g. Architectural Technology and Interior Design, Housing, Building Control.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Construction Manager • Civil Engineer • Building Services Engineer • Architect • Chartered Surveyor • Project Manager • Planner • Quantity Surveyor 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Logical approach • Practical problem solver • Negotiating skills • IT skills • Strategic planner • Good at maths and physics • Practical experience • Manage a team and work as part of one • Work under pressure and take responsibility 	New legislation means that homeowners wanting to sell will need to have a Home Condition Report. Up to 8,000 new inspectors will be required. Some professionals e.g. surveyors will retrain but there will inevitably be skills shortages. There is a strong demand for Construction Engineers, a career choice increasingly popular with females.
Levels 4, 5 & 6 Professional, chartered, management.	First Degrees, HNDs Foundation Degrees, Diplomas of Higher Education, NVQ 4.				
Level 3 Advanced, supervisory, technician, skilled.	A levels, BTEC National, NVQ 3 Advanced Apprenticeships. Advanced Diploma	National Diploma Construction 2yr FT AS/A2 and Applied levels in Engineering NVQ 3 e.g. Construction, Engineering Construction and Civil Engineering Advanced Construction Award Advanced Apprenticeship Advanced Diploma (16-19)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Senior Technician • Civil Engineering Technician • Plumber • Building Control Surveyor/Inspector • Electrician 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ability to work well alone • Good practical skills • Planning & organisational skills • Ability to follow technical drawings and other instructions 	Technological developments in all aspects of the Construction and Building industry means that there are more job opportunities at technician level and above than positions for non skilled labour.
Level 2 Intermediate, operative, semi skilled.	GCSEs A* - C, BTEC First, NVQ 2 Apprenticeships Certificate Higher Diploma	GCSE Construction NVQ 2 Construction Craft Trades Apprenticeship in Construction or Civil Engineering Higher Diploma (14-19) BTEC Diploma 1yr FT Built Environment Intermediate Construction Award	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bricklayer • Carpenter • Roofer • Painter/ Decorator • Demolition Operative 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Physical strength • An eye for detail • Willing to work outdoors in (sometimes) dirty conditions • Good communicator • Practical ability, especially hand skills • A head for heights • To be careful, methodical & accurate • To work well in a team • An aptitude for maths • To be fit and healthy • Able to follow instructions • To understand basic health and safety principles 	Young people can enter the construction job market straight from school. Employees often start 'from the bottom' and work their way up, completing job specific qualifications such an NVQ, as they go. Young people need to know that for any job requiring operation of machinery (Plant Operator) they will need to be at least 18 years old.
Level 1 Foundation	GCSE grades D – G NVQ 1, Level 1 Certificate. Foundation Diploma	Foundation Construction Award Construction and Civil Engineering E2E FT training programme (16 – 18) Foundation Diploma (14-19)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • General Operative 		There will be opportunities in the next 5 years in East London due to the preparation for the Olympic Games. There are also major regeneration projects in the North west.
Entry level	Certificate of Achievement	City & Guilds Basic Skills in Construction and Civil Engineering E2E FT training programme (16 – 18)			

Other related occupations:

Construction and the Built Environment offers opportunities for a huge number of diverse, but highly interlinked jobs and careers.

Some involve **highly specialised practical skills** e.g. plasterer, electrician, glazier etc, whilst others involve the ability to see the '**big picture**' in terms of the planning and designing for large scale projects, e.g. project managers, civil engineers and quantity surveyors. Similarly the **design, planning and maintenance** of the Built Environment requires specialist workers, such as architects, housing managers and conservation officers.

There is also a need for **supporting roles** e.g. secretarial, legal, ICT and financial support. Marketing and sales personnel are also required. Some workers come from other industries, bringing with them transferable skills, such as communication with the public, and develop specialist knowledge 'in post'.

Whilst engineering is a massive industrial sector in its own right, for some jobs which fall under the 'Construction Industry' banner there are clear **links to the engineering sector** – as indicated by some of the combined qualifications available e.g. Civil Engineering and Construction Management MSc.

Health warnings / factors to consider:

The construction industry is the **UK's largest industry**, but one that is notorious for its ups and downs in terms of activity and recruitment. The Government plans to invest £22 billion in to the industry nationally as part of its "sustainable communities" strategy. However, **growth and expansion are not uniform across the whole of the country**.

Qualified and experienced workers often **find well paid work overseas**. Apprenticeships are the recognised method of entry for many jobs and lead to NVQs/SVQs Levels 2 and 3. They can provide the basis for further studies leading to technical, supervisory and management occupations, or self-employment. By 2010, all workers will be expected to hold a **CSCS** (Construction Skills Certification Scheme) card indicating their qualifications and health and safety skills.

The UK construction labour market is large and expanding, two million people are currently employed in over 700 different job areas. Construction needs at least **88,000 recruits a year in the UK** to ensure that there will be enough qualified workers able to improve the performance and competitiveness of the industry.

Qualities / Lifestyle profile

Construction can be a hazardous occupation and the importance of health and safety cannot be overestimated. Although the image of construction is one of a male dominated sector it is certainly true that things are changing, particularly at the graduate entrant/young professional end of the spectrum. There are more females employed in construction professions than trades In bigger companies, work can involve working in varied locations such as deserts and oil platforms, and moving from project to project in the UK or worldwide. An exception to this would be if you were working for a local authority or small local employer.

Starting salaries for graduates range from £12,000 to £30,000. The higher end of the scale is offered by international companies. UK-wide, regional contractors and local authorities offer lower wages.

Many jobs within the industry operate 'regular' hours (9 – 5), but larger projects often work 'round the clock' and transport related projects often require a night shift to take advantage of quiet traffic hours.

The large demand for construction workers from both commercial and domestic sources means that (reputation permitting) there is plenty of work 'out there'. Many workers use their skills in the Middle East where there are many large scale construction projects.