

# The Diploma

Bringing learning to life



IN CONSTRUCTION AND THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

“The Diploma provides a flexible and balanced curriculum which will enable students to gain a real understanding of the construction industry. The emphasis on employer involvement in delivering learning and in quality work experience will ensure that students develop skills which employers like Lovells are looking for.

“We anticipate the Diploma will provide a pipeline of talent into our apprenticeship, management trainee and university sponsorship programmes.”

Bruce Boughton, Training and Development Manager,  
Lovells



# Be a part of a vital industry in the UK

The construction and built environment industry is one of the largest and most important economic sectors in the UK. It covers a range of varied industries such as architecture, structural steelwork, heating and ventilation, painting and decorating and surveying. These industries create tens of thousands of new jobs every year.

If you want to work in the construction and built environment sector, you need to have a good understanding of why the built environment is significant to the public, the environment and the economy, and how to work safely in the industry.

If you can offer the right skills and knowledge, your career prospects in this sector are excellent.

## **BUILD ESSENTIAL SKILLS AND EXPERIENCE**

The Diploma in Construction and the Built Environment gives you a chance to learn in different settings. You'll learn how the built environment was designed and constructed, how it is used, and how it affects people and communities. But you'll also be doing lots of practical activities such as getting involved in site visits and the planning and building of prestigious projects. You'll then be able to apply everything you've learnt when working on your own projects.

# What will I learn?



All levels of Diploma in Construction and the Built Environment focus on three main themes:

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**Design the built environment:** Learn how the built environment is designed and constructed, how it impacts on people and communities, and how history, politics and economics affect it.

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**Create the built environment:** Develop a range of skills and knowledge needed in different industries – for example, using tools and understanding modern construction methods and materials.

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**Value and use the built environment:** Analyse the need for good management and continuous maintenance, and understand the importance of good design, workmanship and teamwork.

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## HOW IS THE DIPLOMA MADE UP?

### Principal learning (subject learning you have to do)

At the heart of the Diploma are your core construction and built environment subjects. These will teach you the main things you need to know about the sector. You'll learn about the issues that are affecting the sector today, how it works and what skills you need to have to work within it.

## ACTIVITIES YOU MIGHT DO IN YOUR PRINCIPAL LEARNING

These are just some examples of the kind of learning you'll be doing.

FOUNDATION DIPLOMA	HIGHER DIPLOMA	ADVANCED DIPLOMA
<p><b>Design the built environment</b> You'll learn how the built environment affects people and communities. You could, for example, give a presentation showing how a real building project will impact on the local community and other properties in the area because of its site and materials chosen.</p> <p><b>Create the built environment</b> You'll learn about construction methods and techniques. You could, for example, install basic electrical wiring, following the information on a scaled drawing.</p> <p><b>Value and use the built environment</b> You'll learn about maintaining buildings and structures. You could, for example, do a survey of an office or a factory, and then make a maintenance plan where you list what needs to be done, how much it will cost and the risks of not doing it.</p>	<p><b>Design the built environment</b> You'll learn about design considerations and architectural features associated with the built environment. You could, for example, develop a design for a typical modern building or structure.</p> <p><b>Create the built environment</b> You'll learn about the tools and practical techniques used in design and construction. You could, for example, build a half-brick wall using the 'stretcher bond' technique (the most common way of overlapping bricks) with a 'bucket handle' joint (a rounded joint finish). You'd also create a decorative feature using coloured bricks.</p> <p><b>Value and use the built environment</b> You'll learn the importance of managing built structures well. You could, for example, analyse how a company manages their facilities.</p>	<p><b>Design the built environment</b> You'll develop an understanding of the extent and significance of the built environment and what shapes, develops and influences it. You could, for example, produce a report about urban design, where you include proposals and strategies for improving infrastructure and transport services in your area. This will involve explaining regulatory requirements and other legislation that is part of the planning process.</p> <p><b>Create the built environment</b> You'll gain great insight into the different construction and built environment industries. You could, for example, do site visits to construction sites, prefabrication plants, architects' studios, local authority planning offices and transport departments.</p> <p><b>Value and use the built environment</b> You'll learn how site developments affect the communities that use them. You could, for example, do surveys and opinion polls to see what the public think of a development.</p>



**05. THE DIPLOMA IN CONSTRUCTION  
AND THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT**

## **ADDITIONAL AND SPECIALIST LEARNING (CHOICES YOU CAN MAKE)**

At each level, you can develop your particular interest in construction and the built environment further by taking specialist courses relating to your chosen subject and career ambitions. You could, for example, learn about housing or sustainable communities or the impact different land use has on the safety, health and well-being of communities. Or you could opt for plumbing and joinery if those skills interest you.

Or you might choose a GCSE or A level in subjects like maths or art and design, which would help you get onto a university course.

You can also broaden your course by taking an additional subject that reflects your other interests and career ambitions – like a language, a science, or a creative subject, like music.

## **FUNCTIONAL SKILLS IN ENGLISH, MATHS AND ICT**

Like all Diploma students, you'll develop a good standard of English, maths and ICT. These subjects are essential to succeed in any business or learning environment, whether you decide to continue in the construction and built environment sector or not.

## **PERSONAL, LEARNING AND THINKING SKILLS**

All Diploma students will develop personal, learning and thinking skills, such as team-working, creative thinking and self-management. These are vital skills in both life and work, and will be useful to you in the future, no matter which path you take.

## **WORK EXPERIENCE**

Your Diploma will give you the opportunity to do at least 10 days' work experience. This is a great way to use the knowledge, understanding and skills you have learnt in the classroom, and experience what work is like from the inside.

## **STUDENT PROJECTS**

During your Diploma, you'll complete a student project to demonstrate the skills and knowledge that you have learnt. This could be a written piece of work, like a report or an investigation. Or it could be a practical piece of work, like designing a new structure where you use a range of materials and then produce a plan that enables others to build it.

# What a **Diploma** will lead to

**A Diploma in Construction and the Built Environment will give you the skills you need for either university or work, and is a first step towards a career in the sector.**

It could lead you to a university degree in construction management, building services engineering, housing practice, planning or architecture.

Or it could help you begin a career as a building services contractor, construction worker, electrician, engineer, urban planner, property developer, estate agent, restorer of old buildings or architect.

However, the Diploma in Construction and the Built Environment doesn't mean you have to opt for a career in this sector. Because a Diploma teaches a mix of subjects, it will give you the skills that will be welcomed by colleges, universities and employers, no matter what you choose to do.

# Case study

**THE YEAR IS 2010. THIS COULD BE THE EXPERIENCE OF ONE DIPLOMA STUDENT.**

**MEET ANDY, A DIPLOMA IN CONSTRUCTION AND THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT STUDENT**

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Andy, 16, from Northampton is studying for an Advanced Diploma in Construction and the Built Environment.

‘I’ve got a real interest in buildings, and I want to get involved in architecture and property development as a career.’

## **WHAT I WILL LEARN...**

There are seven mandatory units, like modules on design that I have to study. But I’ll also learn about all the other construction disciplines and processes, which will help me to see the bigger picture. I’m also taking an A level in maths and an AS level in art so I can go on to study architecture.

For my extended project, I’ll be creating a series of architectural designs to improve my local area. As part of the project, I will write an essay on how I came up with the designs, and the impact they will have on the community.

## **I’M LOOKING FORWARD TO...**

Work experience – without a doubt. For two weeks, I’ll be shadowing architects at a local practice who are restoring the Mackintosh Church at Queen’s Cross. I’ll mainly be focusing on conserving interior fittings, but I’ll also be coming up with design ideas.

## **THE FUTURE...**

After I finish my Diploma course, I want to go on to study Architecture at university. It’s what I’ve always wanted to do, and the Diploma will help me achieve that.

This case study is an illustration of how and why a student might decide to do a Diploma. It does not refer to a real individual.

**“The Diploma in Construction and the Built Environment will provide young people with a new and exciting way of learning and, for the first time, place the built environment at the heart of mainstream education. A whole generation will now see opportunities for careers that until now they were hardly aware of.”**

**Mel Lees,  
Deputy Director of the Centre for  
Education in Built Environment,  
Salford University**





# Want to find out **more?**

To find out more about the Diploma in Construction and the Built Environment, speak to your teacher or careers adviser. You can also find more information about Diplomas on these websites:

[www.direct.gov.uk/diplomas](http://www.direct.gov.uk/diplomas)

[www.connexions-direct.com](http://www.connexions-direct.com)

[www.cbdiploma.co.uk](http://www.cbdiploma.co.uk)

## **DOWNLOADING THIS LEAFLET**

If you'd like to download this leaflet, go to  
[http://yp.direct.gov.uk/diplomas/explore\\_more/media\\_centre](http://yp.direct.gov.uk/diplomas/explore_more/media_centre)

## **FINDING A COURSE IN YOUR AREA**

If you'd like to find out where you can study for this Diploma in your area, go to

[http://yp.direct.gov.uk/diplomas/where\\_to\\_study](http://yp.direct.gov.uk/diplomas/where_to_study)

or have a look at the prospectus showing all courses in your area: follow the link on [www.dcsf.gov.uk/14-19/](http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/14-19/)

You can download this leaflet or order copies online at [www.teachernet.gov.uk/publications](http://www.teachernet.gov.uk/publications) Search using reference DCSF-00490-2008.

You can also order more copies by calling 0845 60 222 60; textphone 0845 60 555 60. Please quote reference 00490-2008LEF-EN.

For further information, see [www.teachernet.gov.uk/diplomas](http://www.teachernet.gov.uk/diplomas)

For more information about the new 14–19 curriculum, visit [www.dcsf.gov.uk/14-19](http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/14-19)

Information about the structure of Diplomas and resources to support their delivery by schools and colleges are available from the Qualifications and Curriculum Authority at [www.qca.org.uk/diploma](http://www.qca.org.uk/diploma)

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