

## Response to Programme Review Report

### TU223 Master of Science in Quantity Surveying

<i>Version of Report</i>	<i>Author</i>	<i>Date</i>
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<i>Revised Documentation Submitted</i>	<i>Date</i>
Programme Self-Evaluation Report	31/05/2023
Programme Information (Akari download)	31/05/2023
Book of Modules (Akari download)	31/05/2023
Revised Surveying Capstone Handbook	31/05/2023

<b>Conditions of Approval</b>	
1.	The Panel welcomes the inclusion of the Capstone Project module, an applied project that will replace the traditional dissertation. It agrees that the Programme Team should clarify the purpose and expected outcome of the critical analysis component of the Capstone Project within the programme documentation.
Response to Condition 1	The programme team are pleased to note support for the Surveying Capstone Project, and have provided clarification of the purpose and expected outcome of the critical analysis component within the revised documentation. Updates have now been made to the programme module catalogue, Self-Evaluation Report (SER) (see page 35) and draft Surveying Capstone Handbook (see page 6).
2.	In the context of this being a conversion MSc, the Panel observes that much of the module content is pitched out of necessity at undergraduate level. It considers that the module learning outcomes require review and revision to ensure that these reflect higher level (NFQ Level Nine) learning outcomes and what is expected of students in the various assessment tasks. The programme learning outcomes should also be reviewed with a view to rephrasing the wording appropriate to Level Nine.
Response to Condition 2	The programme team have reviewed and revised all module descriptors throughout the programme to reflect higher level (NFQ level 9) module learning outcomes. Amendments have been made directly to the Akari Programme Module Catalogue.  The programme learning outcomes have also been reviewed and revised to reflect NFQ level 9 learning outcomes. Akari and the SER (pages 12-13) have been updated accordingly.
3.	Programme learning outcomes are required for the proposed Postgraduate Certificate and Postgraduate Diploma awards. The programme documentation should also specify which modules must be completed in order to be eligible for each of these awards.

Response to Condition 3	<p>The programme team are of the view that there is limited merit in seeking approval for a Postgraduate Certificate therefore do not seek approval for this exit award. However, to reflect students' accumulation of 60 ECCTS credits, we would like to wish to include a Postgraduate Diploma as an exit award on the basis of completing all taught modules (thereby only excluding the Surveying Capstone Project from the lower award).</p> <p>LO for the PgDip (see SER page 13 Table 10) and are similar to the MSc qualification with the removal of LO9 (relating to proposal development) and LO10 (relating to self-evaluation - reflective practice) which are two components solely relating to the Surveying Capstone Project.</p> <p>Specific programme learning outcomes for a Postgraduate Diploma are included in the SER. A present the Akari system does not allow for lower level awards to be specified, however a note referring to the SER and GAR is included).</p> <p>Furthermore, the programme team may in the future seek approval for a dedicated Postgraduate Diploma award requiring a new programme code.</p>
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Recommendations	
1.	Exemplar Capstone e-portfolios (from other programmes) should be made available to students for their information.
Response	Exemplar Capstone e-portfolios will be made available to students to identify good practice in this regard. The Capstone project within the MSc BIM programme offered within the School will be used for this purpose.
2.	The Programme Team should consider the inclusion of activities in support of the Capstone Project towards the end of year one to encourage students to engage with this prior to the summer break, for example, a preparatory workshop.
Response	<p>As part of the Student Induction Programme (Year 1 Semester 1) students will be fully briefed as to all programme requirements, including the Surveying Capstone Project. At this early stage the importance of maintaining a diary, should students wish to register on the SCSi Assessment of Professional Competence (APC), is highlighted and supports including templates provided for this purpose. The Programme Co-Ordinator will continue to invite the SCSi in to speak to students during the first semester in this regard.</p> <p>It is intended to deliver an interactive workshop with students at the end of Year 1 Semester 2 to outline the requirements of all aspects of the Surveying Capstone Project and to provide guidance in relation to topic selection, proposal writing and literature review.</p>
3.	The Programme Coordinator and Capstone Project module coordinator should meet with student employers to share and discuss potential capstone project topics for the coming year.
Response	The Programme team welcome this useful suggestion and will schedule an industry liaison panel on an annual basis to discuss the MSc QS programme, including the identification of potential Surveying Capstone Project topics. This will ensure that the programme and research undertaken within the programme remains relevant to industry.
4.	The Programme Team provide explicit instruction in reflective learning to support students in the keeping of the Learning Diary component of the Capstone Project. The module learning outcome 7 relating to this diary should be reviewed and amended.

Response	<p>Guidance in relation to maintaining a diary and reflective learning is provided during induction (Year 1 Semester 1); interactive workshop (Year 1, Semester 2 as per point 2 above) and during the taught component of the Surveying Capstone Project (Year 2 Semesters 1 and 2).</p> <p>Supervisors will provide guidance to students throughout Year 2 of the programme in relation to reflective learning and maintaining a diary.</p> <p>The programme team will monitor and review the full range of supports provided to students in relation to the Surveying Capstone Project on an ongoing basis to determine additional requirements.</p> <p>Module Learning Outcomes have been updated, including LO7.</p>
5.	<p>Students should be required to make a presentation or poster presentation outlining the findings of their research as part of the Interview component of the Capstone Project. In addition, it would suggest that a poster presentation event would be an appropriate way to mark the end of the programme and acknowledge student achievement.</p>
Response	<p>The programme team support the recommendation for students to make a presentation or poster presentation as part of the final interview has been included in the updated module descriptor, SER (page 35) and draft Surveying Capstone Project Handbook (page 9).</p> <p>The programme team also welcome the proposal to celebrate student achievement at the end of the programme with an event, providing students with an opportunity to showcase their work and for peer-to-peer learning. If practicable, this may form part of the industry liaison event (see item 3 above) such that employers gain deeper insight as to the Surveying Capstone Project to ensure suitable suggestions for topics for subsequent years.</p>
6.	<p>The Programme Team should consider the final word count for the project: the Panel recommends between 12-15000 words.</p>
Response	<p>Consideration has been given to the word-count for the Surveying Capstone Project. It is intended that the indicative word count be reflective of 30 ECTS credits at level 9 so possibly slightly in excess of the 12-15,000 words noted by the panel. This is broken down as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Research Proposal: 2,000 words</li> <li>• Critical Analysis: 10-12,000 words</li> <li>• Diary: 3,000 words</li> </ul> <p>The School of Surveying and Construction Innovation (SSCI) usually permit +/- 10% in word-count for a major project which will be the case for the Surveying Capstone Project.</p> <p>The above has been incorporated into the revised draft Surveying Capstone Handbook (pages 5-7), and the programme team will review this requirement on an ongoing basis.</p>
7.	<p>The Programme Team should consider remedies for those students who fail to complete the capstone project.</p>
Response	<p>Thresholds apply to the Surveying Capstone Project and students are required to achieve a grade of 40% in each component. Students are required to repeat failed component(s) or as per Progression Board decision/recommendation.</p> <p>The module descriptor and draft Surveying Capstone Handbook (page 5) have been updated to reflect repeat arrangements.</p>
8.	<p>The Panel is broadly supportive of the proposal to complete the MSc in 2 years and consider it is likely to prove attractive to potential students. It would recommend that the Programme Team monitor annually the impact of this change on students and student completion and review as necessary</p>

Response	The programme team will continue to monitor student engagement, progression and completion rates to ascertain any impact of the reduced programme duration.
9.	The Panel is also broadly supportive of the continuation of a blended approach to delivery and notes that this will also be attractive to students. However, it is cognisant of the benefits of the face-to-face learning experience in enhancing student engagement and recommends that the team monitor attendance and participation in face-to-face and synchronous online sessions to ensure that students continue to engage with their modules and with their cohort.
Response	The programme team will continue to monitor attendance on a weekly basis, and trends pertaining to in-person and online attendance/engagement will be collated on an ongoing basis.
10.	The Panel would consider it appropriate that resources are made available to allow the School to offer additional modules within this programme, such as Cost Management of Mechanical & Electrical which it considers would be an attractive and relevant elective module.
Response	The programme team welcome and support this recommendation in relation to additional resource requirements in specialist aspects such as M&E Cost Management.