

GRADUATE DIPLOMA IN BUILDING SURVEYING

1. Background

This course is for the purposes of providing graduates in cognate fields with a qualification leading to the designation of Registered Building Practitioner (Building Surveyor) conferred by the Victorian Government's Building Practitioners Board. This proposal is for a one year full-time or two years part-time graduate diploma consisting of existing subjects and two new subjects.

The Australian Building Codes Board has produced a National Accreditation Framework for Building Certifiers. (In Victoria, Building Certifiers are known as Building Surveyors.) The qualification requirement for a "Level 1 Certifier" (the highest level) is a degree. Moreover, the Building Practitioners Board of Victoria (and the Building Regulations) requires that building practitioners, including building surveyors, be registered and that registrants require a relevant degree. Specialised degree programs in Australia are very few in number and have been found to be unsustainable due to the lack of numbers of school leavers selecting building surveying as a career.

Another possible source of entrants to the profession includes graduates in cognate fields such as engineering or architecture who would require some postgraduate coursework experience in some specific fields. This is a course proposal for a Graduate Diploma in Building Surveying that could be mounted to complete the required benchmarks for graduates in architecture and engineering.

The Building Commission of Victoria (which effectively speaks for the Building Practitioners Board) is supportive of this proposal and has provided funds to develop a suitable program. The combination of a previous cognate degree and this proposed graduate diploma will cover the educational benchmarks set in the framework. A new subject in Construction Regulation and a substantially revised subject in Construction Technology are required to fully cover the benchmarks. The Australian Institute of Building Surveyors is also supportive of this proposal.

This proposal contributes to the University's goals by providing highly educated diplomates to a part of the building and construction industry that is suffering a shortage of professional practitioners.

Benchmarking has been undertaken with the University of Hong Kong which is the only member of *Universitas 21* that conducts a Bachelors degree course in building surveying. The UHK course, that includes quantity surveying and real estate, is accredited by the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors and the Hong Kong Institute of Surveyors. The RICS is working with *Universitas 21* in the professional portability project in real estate. The RICS also accredits the property and construction program of the University of Melbourne. A group from HKIS is about to visit the University also to accredit the program. This proposal extracts a relevant group of subjects from the current Bachelors degree course within the Faculty of Architecture Building and Planning in order to create a graduate diploma. Accordingly, the proposal is in line with international best practice.

2. Entry Requirements

1. The Selection Committee will evaluate the applicant's ability to pursue successfully the course using the following criteria: –

- a degree in a cognate discipline and at least one year's documented, relevant work experience; or
- registration by the Building Practitioners Board of Victoria as a Building Inspector – Unlimited, or equivalent. (Note this registration requires completion of an Associate Diploma in Applied Science (Building Inspection) and 3 years of approved industry experience.)

2. The Selection Committee may conduct interviews and tests and call for referees reports and employer references to elucidate any of the matters referred to above.

3. Course Structure

Course/Program structure (full time)	points
<i>Semester 1</i>	
702-308 Structures and Construction 3A	12.5
702-3XX Construction Regulation A	12.5 New
702-411 Advanced Construction	12.5
702-416 Construction Law, or	
702-419 Advanced Construction Law	12.5
<i>Semester 2</i>	
702-309 Structures and Construction 3B	12.5
702-310 Construction Methods and Equipment	12.5
702-412 Advanced Services	12.5
702-4XX Construction Regulation B	12.5 New
TOTAL	100.0

Course/Program structure (part time)	points
<i>Year 1 Semester 1</i>	
702-308 Structures and Construction 3A	12.5
702-3XX Construction Regulation A	12.5 New
<i>Year 1 Semester 2</i>	
702-309 Structures and Construction 3B	12.5
702-310 Construction Methods and Equipment	12.5
<i>Year 2 Semester 1</i>	
702-411 Advanced Construction	12.5
702-416 Construction Law, or	
702-419 Advanced Construction Law	12.5
<i>Year 2 Semester 2</i>	
702-412 Advanced Services	12.5
702-4XX Construction Regulation B	12.5 New
TOTAL	100.0

The course will be offered both full and part-time.

4. EFTSU and Budgetary Consequences

The course will be offered on a fee paying basis to Australian and international students.