

## Illustration

These could be the thoughts of one student considering taking a Diploma.

**Name** Manjit **Age** 16

**Which Diploma do you think you might do?**

Diploma in Construction and the Built Environment.

**Why?**

I have always been interested in building design. I hope to start studying for the Diploma in September 2008 and sit my exams in 2010. I may take a maths or science A level as well. I haven't yet decided if I will go on to university or go straight into skilled employment with a large contractor and continue developing my skills there.

**“The new Diploma is a breath of fresh air as it has been developed specifically for the built environment sector. It's a fantastic opportunity for young people to acquire valuable skills and really make a difference in the workplace.”**

**Julia Cook,**  
Training and Development Manager, RLF London

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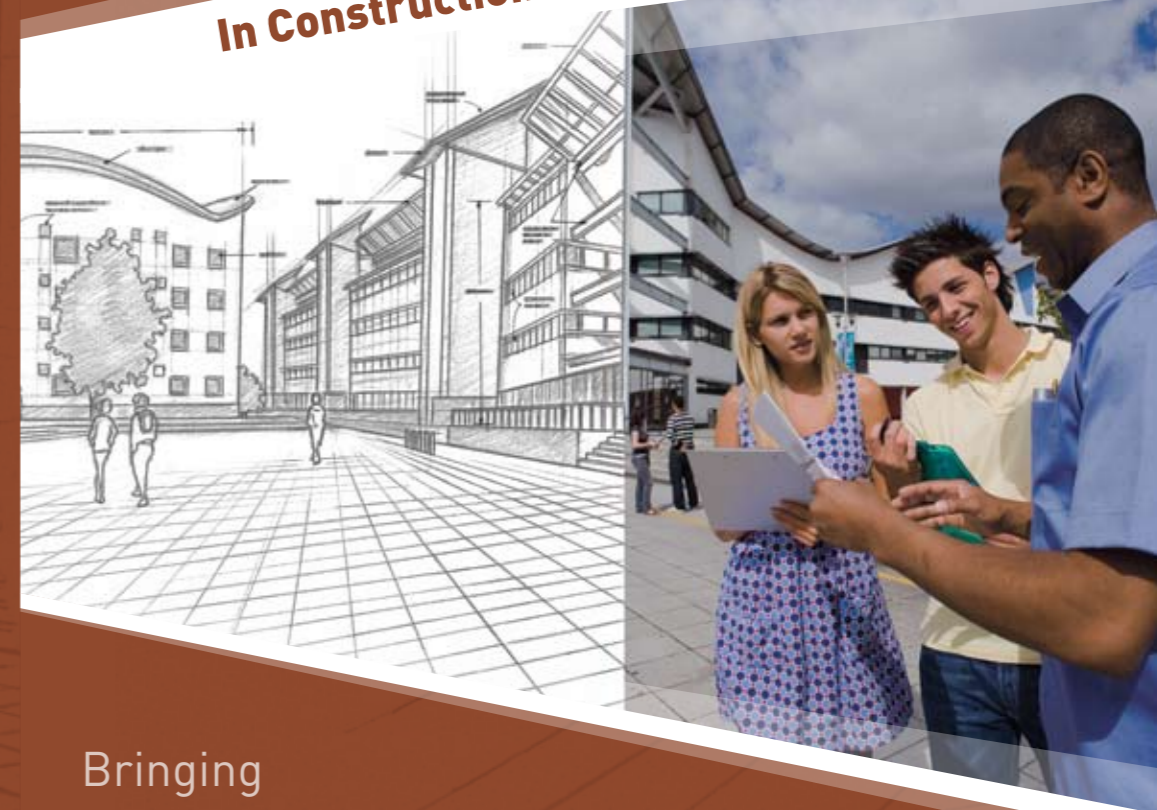


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# The Diploma

**In Construction and the Built Environment**



Bringing  
your  
learning  
to life

## ► A brief introduction to Construction and the Built Environment

Construction and the Built Environment is one of the most important economic sectors in the UK. It covers a wide range of different industries, including architecture, structural steelwork, heating and ventilation, painting and decorating, glazing, plumbing, facilities management, utilities infrastructure and surveying – and has a combined turnover of more than £203 billion a year.

These industries employ tens of thousands of people, and the opportunities for young people are many and varied. With the right skills and knowledge, the career prospects are excellent. The new Diplomas have been developed by industry and education specialists to help students to gain an insight into this varied sector and to give them the skills and qualities that employers and universities are looking for.

## ► What is the Diploma in Construction and the Built Environment?

The Diploma in Construction and the Built Environment introduces students to the world that we have created. It gives students an understanding of land and materials, how the built environment affects people and communities and what factors influence its development. The Diploma gives them an understanding of the different careers that each industry offers, and looks to create the skills and qualities they need to succeed in these jobs.

Diploma students also develop a good standard of English, maths and ICT. This broad mix of knowledge, understanding and skills will equip young people for college and university or employment.

### **There are three levels of Diploma. Starting in Year 10 or 12:**

- » The Foundation Diploma takes broadly the same time to do as four or five GCSEs.
- » The Higher Diploma takes broadly the same time to do as five or six GCSEs.

### **Starting in Year 12 or above:**

- » The Advanced Diploma takes broadly the same time to do as three A levels.
- » A Progression Diploma will also be available, which takes broadly the same time to do as two A levels. This will suit students who do not wish to complete a whole Advanced Diploma.

## ► What will the Diploma students learn?

Construction and the Built Environment Diploma students will complete a series of compulsory and optional courses, all designed to give them knowledge, skills and experience.

### **Compulsory courses**

- » Design the Built Environment explores the nature of the built environment, factors that influence its design and construction and its impact on people and communities. It also examines how history, politics and economics affect our built environment.
- » Create the Built Environment looks at what different people in the industry do, and lets students develop a range of skills and knowledge needed to create the built environment.

- » Value and Use of the Built Environment analyses maintenance and management requirements and how built structures affect the community that uses them.

All Diploma students study the same core subjects but in more or less detail depending on the level.

### **Choices**

Students also have the flexibility to choose from a wide range of additional or specialist learning options that are also part of the Diploma, to meet their personal interests and career goals.

Students can choose to deepen their knowledge of their chosen Diploma subject by taking a more specialist course, or, alternatively study a subject that broadens their study programme – perhaps a language or a science.

### **Student project**

All Diploma students will complete a project to demonstrate the skills and knowledge they have acquired. Students can choose their own project. For example, a student might design a new structure using a range of materials fit for purpose and producing a plan that would enable others to build it.

### **Personal, learning and thinking skills**

Mastering essential life and work skills is crucial in today's competitive job market. So all Diploma students are encouraged to develop skills like teamwork and self management, as part of their course. They will learn how to express themselves confidently, and how to apply their knowledge and skills creatively in a business environment.

### **Work experience**

Diploma students will do a minimum of 10 days' work experience. They will also get the chance to learn, and be mentored by, professionals working in their chosen field.

### **English, maths and ICT**

All Diploma students need to achieve a minimum standard in English, maths and ICT. These subjects will be studied as part of the Diploma or can be taken as a GCSE alongside it.



## ► What will the Diploma lead to?

The Diploma is designed to broaden a young person's horizons and give them a wide range of next-step options.

The Advanced Diploma can lead on to college or university, or to further training and employment. Students who have completed a Foundation or Higher Diploma in Construction and the Built Environment might choose to go on to do an Advanced Diploma, or perhaps to do A levels. They could also decide to start an Apprenticeship or work-based training.

The Diploma in Construction and the Built Environment does not mean students have to pursue a career in this sector. A Diploma gives students relevant, transferable skills that will be welcomed by colleges, universities and employers.