

Construction Contract Law

Aims:

The procurement of construction work takes place within specific legislative frameworks. Contracts result from agreements between businesses for all forms of consultancy and construction work, whether they are formally written or not. New developments in statutes, court cases and standard form contracting have a significant impact on the kinds of deals that take place in the construction industry. Also, new business processes promote new ways of working and collaborative business arrangements that require a deeper understanding of the way that business participants interact in the construction process. The construction industry is characterised by the way that each participant typically works for a different practice or firm, and they are all expected to work together, usually under the terms of business contracts (formal or informal) within the statutory framework that prevails. This module seeks to explain the statutory and contractual context of contracts in construction, in order that the students will be able to recognise and confront the kinds of problem that can get in the way of successful contract management.

Intended learning outcomes:

Assessable outcomes

Students will be able to make informed decisions about risk apportionment, procurement methods, contract strategies and dispute resolution strategy. In addition, students will be able to explain the legislative context of contracts, and the impact that innovations and current policy development are having on construction procurement policy.

Additional outcomes

Students will be familiarized with legal approaches to construction contracting, and will understand the diverse influences on contract policy and procurement thinking.

Outline content:

- Principles of the law of contract and recent developments
- Relationship between procurement practice and contract law
- Developments in procurement policy
- Contract choice and procurement strategy
- Claims Management
- Tort law in the construction context
- Civil Liability for Building Defects
- Remedies for Breach of Contract
- Project Security: Insurance
- Bonds and Guarantees

- Arbitration and litigation
- Alternative dispute resolution

Continuing Professional Development

A CPD certificate will be issued on completion of the course.

Further Information

For further details, dates, and costs please contact Stephanie Wilkinson +44 (0) 118 378 8195

Email: s.m.m.wilkinson@reading.ac.uk

Website: www.reading.ac.uk/cme/