



Progression Pathways in Construction and the Built Environment

Higher Education

Higher Technical Qualifications (HTQs) play a crucial role in supporting careers in the Education and Early Years route by providing learners with the knowledge, skills, and practical experience needed to excel in this essential sector. Here's how HTQs make a difference:

- **Industry-recognised skills:** HTQs are designed with input from employers in the construction industry, so learners know exactly what's needed on-site or in planning roles. That could include project management, building regulations, Computer Aided Design (CAD), or sustainable building methods.
- **Fast and flexible route to work:** Most HTQs take 1-2 years full-time (or can be taken part-time alongside a job). That means less time studying, with fewer years of tuition fees than studying for a degree, and a quicker jump into jobs like site supervisor, construction technician, quantity surveyor assistant and so on.
- **Pathways to career progression:** HTQs offer clear pathways into a variety of careers. They also provide a stepping stone for further qualifications, including higher-level apprenticeships and degrees. If learners want to level up later, HTQs often allow them to top up to a full degree or have access to professional bodies (like CIOB or RICS) with the right experience.
- **Practical learning:** Unlike some academic courses, HTQs are a great blend of academic and technical learning. They provide real-world skills that apply on a job site and assignments and projects will be based on real scenarios.
- **Meeting sector demand:** there's a skills gap in construction, especially for technical and supervisory roles. HTQs focus on high quality technical skills that are sector specific and align with employer needs. Employers are looking for people who know their stuff and can get to work.



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Progression profile: [T Level in Building Services Engineering for Construction](#)

Progression map: [Construction and the built environment occupational map](#)



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Studying an Undergraduate degree

Through studying a degree you're not limited to hands-on trades – you can move into planning, design, sustainability, tech, or management in the Construction and Built Environment sector. Reasons include:

- **Better career progression:** degrees open doors to senior or chartered roles (like Chartered Surveyor or Chartered Construction Manager) and faster promotions.
- **Higher earning potential:** graduates often start on higher salaries, especially in roles like site management, quantity surveying, or project engineering.
- **In-demand skills:** construction is evolving – think digital modelling, sustainability, modular building and green energy.
- **Global opportunities:** a degree in construction is recognised worldwide.

What It Could Lead To

- Construction management: Site manager; project manager; construction planner; contracts manager.
- Quantity Surveying: quantity surveyor; commercial manager; claims specialist.
- Civil Engineering: structural engineer; geotechnical engineer; infrastructure designer.
- Building & environmental design: sustainability consultant; building services engineer; energy efficiency specialist.
- Digital construction: BIM (Building Information Modelling) coordinator/ manager; digital construction engineer; construction tech specialist.
- Property & real estate: property developer; facilities manager; building inspector.

Apprenticeships

- Higher and degree apprenticeships are a training option that could be the next step after completing a level 3 qualification, allowing individuals to attain a Higher Technical Qualification (HTQ), foundation or undergraduate degree.
- These apprenticeships function similarly to other apprenticeships, with individuals spending up to 80% of their time on-the-job training, while the remaining 20% is dedicated to training with a college, university, or registered training provider.
- Higher level apprenticeships are available in Construction Management and Quantity Surveying, amongst other construction careers

Skilled work

- Studying and training in this sector could lead directly into jobs in skilled trades (hands-on roles) such as an electrician, plumber, bricklayer or welder.
- These roles need precision, problem-solving, and technical skill, often coming from a vocational or apprenticeship background.
- Skilled technical and professional roles such as quantity surveyor, site engineer or construction manager often require a HTQ or degree level qualification.