

Your Degree in Construction...What Next?

Degrees in CIT include:

Construction
Construction Management
Quantity Surveying

Building and Construction has a dual role the economy:

- It directly provides 96,300 jobs across a variety of occupations and levels of skill, accounting for 5.2% of total employment and 6.4% of GNP. An additional 48,000 indirect jobs are provided through the sector. (Forfás, July 2013)
- It provides and maintains the physical infrastructures and buildings on which other industry sectors and society depends.

Over the past 2 years construction employment has grown by 20,000. In 2014, almost one out of every two extra jobs created in Ireland was a construction job. Last year 29,100 additional jobs were created in the Irish economy. 13,100 of those extra jobs were construction jobs. That means construction was responsible for 45% of all the additional jobs created in the Irish economy. The construction sector is made up of over 40,500 enterprises, significantly less than in the boom time years. However, the overall company size profile remains roughly the same. The majority (96.7%) of construction companies are small businesses, employing less than 10 people.

Construction projects are varied and can include house building, building of schools and hospitals, water supply networks, transport systems, and power stations. When something is under construction or in the pre-planning construction stage, it is referred to as a building project.

As a career choice, the construction sector offers great job satisfaction, good salary levels and high quality training. There are opportunities to work at home and abroad, and the varied working environment combines working outdoors along with office based work, working with your hands and with leading edge technologies.

What can I do with my degree?

The principal areas of employment are as surveyors or as construction managers with contracting organisations, government departments, semi-state bodies, and private practice companies.

Potential Areas of Employment

- Site Management

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- Quantity Surveying/Estimating
- Project Planning and Management
- Working with Developers, Designers and Contracting Organisations

Core Skills from a Construction Degree include:

Communications	You will have to negotiate your way through complex communications on a daily basis with different teams involved on a project
Teamwork	Underpinning any construction project is a team. Being able to work successfully with other employees and external subcontractors is crucial
Commercial Awareness	On a day-to-day basis individuals can affect the commercial viability of a project. A commercially aware employee will find ways to make projects more efficient, and spot any potentially costly defects
Problem solving	Used on a daily basis in the construction industry: from dealing with the unexpected, such as burst water pipes, to minimising delays. Everybody has a part to play in driving efficiencies and limiting costly mistakes.
Time Management	Complex construction projects require effective organisation and time management if they are to be delivered to budget and on time,

Targetjobs.co.uk

Finding Employment

The graduate recruitment process normally commences in the first semester and the larger construction companies contact colleges before Christmas, with a view to recruiting when students graduate in the summer. These companies either give single presentations to groups of students in college or attend careers fairs nationally and in colleges.

Frequently at these recruitment events, work experience opportunities are available for students at all levels. So, regardless of what year you're in, it's important to have an up-to-date CV prepared. Keep in touch with your careers service and with lecturers and tutors about upcoming events and vacancies in construction companies. While most construction companies contact colleges to recruit graduates, they also use newspaper advertising, word of mouth, industry-specific recruitment agencies and websites, as well as advertising on their own websites.

Many companies, particularly smaller firms, welcome the initiative taken by those who send in speculative applications. While the particular company may not have an immediate vacancy, they generally contact candidates for an informal interview should anything suitable arise in the future.

See more at gradireland.com

Types of Job Roles:

Construction manager/site manager

This is the person in charge of a building contract and as such they must be aware of, and in control of, all aspects of site operations. They have responsibility both for the profitability of operations and for adhering to the construction and cost plans once agreed. Construction managers or site managers supervise and direct operations on a construction project to ensure it is completed safely, on time and within budget. On smaller sites, managers may carry sole responsibility for the whole project; on larger sites, they may be in charge of a particular section, reporting to the senior site manager. Senior construction managers may oversee several construction projects at the same time. Construction managers work closely with other professionals including architects, engineers, technicians and surveyors, and also act as a point of contact for the public. They have frequent meetings with subcontractors and daily contact with the site workforce.

Contracts manager

This is a similar role to that of site manager, ensuring that all works are completed to the required standards and supported by the relevant documentation. They need to ensure that strict quality control and health and safety measures are adhered to, as well as operational and maintenance procedures. They also have to check that licences are up to date and correct.

Construction estimator

This is similar to the work of a quantity surveyor and involves preparing tenders based on architects' drawings and client requirements. While this is predominantly an office-based position, it is not necessarily a nine-to-five job. The role includes analysis of subcontractors' quotations and working with the planning engineer to predict the likely progress rate and completion date of the project.

Building project manager

Their responsibility is to see that the clients' wishes are adhered to and that the project is completed on time and within the agreed budget. A building project manager is often involved from the initial concept and design of a project through to its construction and completion. They keep track of progress, building control regulations and quality standards and resolve any technical difficulties that arise. They are likely to work on more than one project at a time.

Building surveyor

They offer a specialist service on all matters relating to construction, including the restoration of old buildings and the construction of new ones. Among the services offered are building surveys of residential, industrial and commercial property for intending purchasers. They need to interpret building regulations and use professional skill and judgement to offer advice on acceptable solutions to meet statutory requirements. Building surveyors also deal with fire precautions and insurance claims. It's a route open to any graduate.

Quantity surveyor

Manages all aspects of the contractual and financial side of construction projects. Quantity surveyors are considered the economists of the construction industry and are also referred to as a construction cost consultants. A quantity surveyor is central to the decision-making process throughout the development of a project, from initial inception to final completion. They advise building owners and architects on the probable cost of construction schemes and on the costs of alternative designs. They

prepare cost plans for projects which enable the design team to arrive at practical designs for projects and to stay within budget.

They can also act as project managers and are major contributors to the success of all types of projects in all sectors of the industry, including healthcare, education, public buildings, retail and commercial, residential, leisure and infrastructure projects.

Work activities

- Prepare cost analysis based on the architectural drawings, engineering estimates, materials required and labour involved
- Prepare cost plans to enable design teams to produce practical designs for construction projects, which involves liaising with architects, engineers and subcontractors.
- Prepare tender and contract documents, including bills of quantities
- Evaluate tenders from contractors and subcontractors and, where appropriate, negotiate with the contractors.
- Control all stages of projects within predetermined budget and expenditure.
- Monitor and keep track of project progress and are responsible for the measurement and valuation of variations in the work during the contract, for agreement of interim payments and the final account.
- Work as part of a team to ensure that the requirements of the client are delivered.

Other related jobs

Facilities manager: This involves managing retail centres and offices blocks to meet the needs of the organisation, the management and the occupants. Property and estate management companies may have facilities management sections that manage these facilities on behalf of clients. Large organisations and corporations may have facilities management departments of their own. The facilities manager may employ specialist building services personnel such as building services engineers and trades either as employees or as subcontractors.

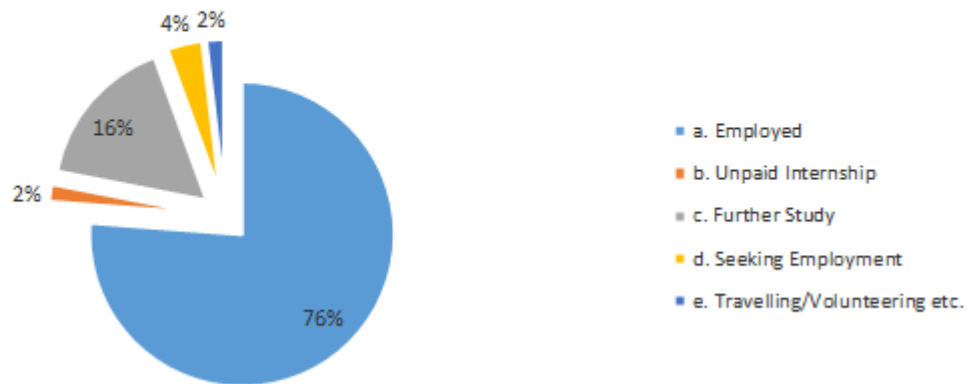
Technical sales adviser: Their work involves the preparation of estimates and tenders; preparation of drawings and specifications for technical elements; management; quality assurance; and technical sales. There can also be opportunities for self-employment, in terms of project management, building estimation etc.

Many professional bodies also have jobs and news sections on their websites. Other useful reference points are:

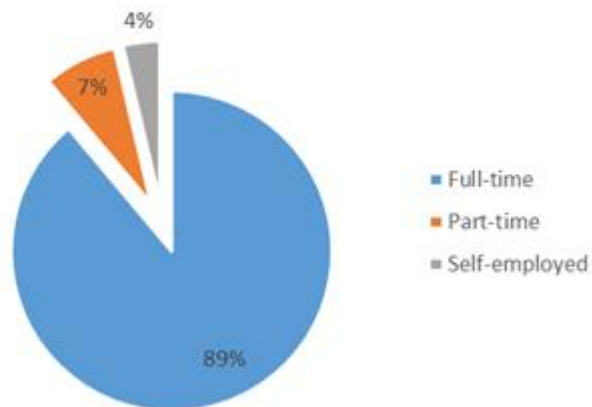
- www.gradireland.com/construction – construction-related graduate jobs, applications advice and news.
- www.cisireland.com – the CIS (Construction Information Services) Report gives advance market research information to contractors and suppliers in both the Republic and Northern Ireland.
- www.euroconstruct.org – network for construction, finance and business forecasting in Europe.
- www.kompass.ie – a comprehensive directory of Irish and worldwide companies.
- www.nrf.ie – Ireland's national recruitment federation, where you can search for agencies that deal with the construction industry.

What are the 2015 graduates doing?

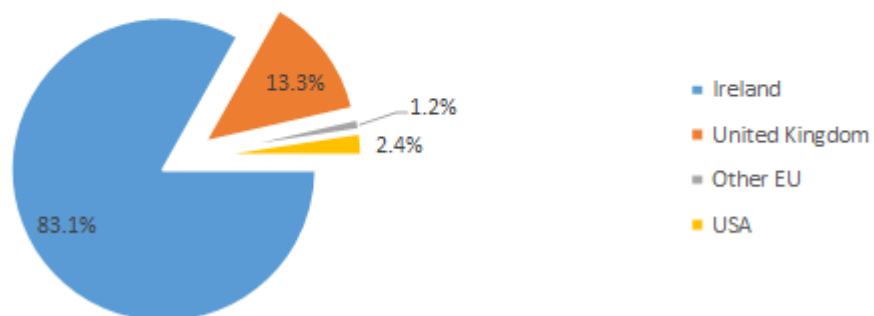
2015 Building & Civil Engineering Graduates (major awards): Current Situation



2015 Building & Civil Engineering (major awards): Employment Mode



2015 Building & Civil Engineering Graduates (major awards): Employment Location



Company	Job Role
ABM Europe	Quantity Surveyor
ACS	Assistant Estimator
BAM	Junior Quantity Surveyor
Bennett Construction	Construction Manager
Brookfield Multiplex	Graduate Construction Manager
Dornan Engineering	Quantity Surveyor
Frencon Construction/Glenman Corporation Ltd	Site Clerk/Assistant Site Manager
Glenman Construction	Construction Site Agent
Heritage Construction	Trainee Construction Manager
Hill International	Associate Claims Consultant
Jacobs Engineering	Construction Manager
John Sisk & Son's	Quantity Surveyor
Macdonald	Project Manager
O'Hara Engineering	Estimator Quantity Surveying
PM Group	Quantity Surveyor

If you would like to know more about the First Destinations Survey please contact the Careers Office.

Postgraduate Studies

www.postgradireland.com/engineering Information about courses in engineering, manufacturing and construction

Potential Employers

BAM: BAM Ireland (formerly Ascon Contractors) is a wholly owned subsidiary of Royal BAM Group of the Netherlands. BAM Ireland covers the entire spectrum of construction in Ireland.

PM Group: PM Group was established in 1973 and has grown to become one of the most respected engineering design, architecture, project and construction management firms in the world.

Arup: Arup are an independent firm of designers, planners, engineers, consultants and technical specialists offering a broad range of professional services.

Recruitment Websites

<http://www.constructionjobs.ie/IRELAND.html>

<http://ie.indeed.com/Construction-jobs-in-County-Cork>

<http://www.construction-jobs.ie/>

<http://www.irishjobs.ie/Construction-Jobs-in-Cork>

<http://www.icds.ie/recruit>

Useful Links

[An Taisce](#)

[Construction Industry Federation](#)

[Culture Ireland - Promoting Irish Arts Worldwide](#)

[Engineers Ireland](#)

[Institute of Professional Auctioneers and Valuers](#)

[Irish Wind Energy Association](#)

[Operative Plasterers & Allied Trades Society of Ireland](#)

[Ordnance Survey Ireland](#)

[Society of Chartered Surveyors of Ireland](#)

[Technical Engineering and Electrical Union](#)

[The Royal Institute of the Architects of Ireland](#)

[Union of Construction Allied Trades and Technicians](#)