
CAREERS IN CONSTRUCTION

Introduction

Construction is the UK's biggest industry with about TWO MILLION people working in more than 700 different types of jobs. Of these people more than 200,000 of them are women and this is increasing every year.

The Stages of construction

Constructing a building can be a lengthy and complicated job and begins well before you see the building appear on the landscape. The project will go through different stages and each of the stages often employ different trades and people to assist with the project.

The below information firstly looks more closely at the stages in constructing a building like your school and identifies some of the jobs/trades and professions which play a part in a construction company.

Read the below and then see if you can you match the list of jobs provided to the different stages of construction.

1. Site Investigation

This stage is about finding the right place to build the school.

What is the ground like?

Where are the gas, water and electricity pipes?

Is the ground contaminated?

Are there protected species in the area?

2. Planning and design

There are a lot of ways a school can be built but a good design needs to make the best use of the money available to create a school that allows all the staff and pupils to teach and learn and relax in a modern environment using technology and ICT to assist with the educational vision of the school.

- What will be the impact on the environment?
- What materials should we use?
- How many classrooms do we have?
- What technology should we use?

3. Site establishment and groundworks

Most large buildings like a school make take more than a year to build so the site has to be set up for a large number of people to work in and be comfortable. The site needs accommodation for offices, toilets, first aid and cooking facilities. Before the construction of the building begins, it is critical that groundworks begin to put the underground pipes and ducts into the building and to build solid, deep foundations for the building to built upon.

- What sort of accommodation will the builders have?
- Do they have IT equipment on site?
- What type of foundations should we use?

4. The frame, building and internals

Once a solid foundation is established the frame of the building can be built. Unlike the bricks that make up the outside of most of your houses a frame is made of concrete or steel and once it is built, it is sealed with a roof, windows and weather proof walls. Once the building is sealed from the weather then the job of adding more delicate materials, the internal pipework, cables, walls, ceilings, doors, paint, floor coverings and furniture can begin.

- Why use a steel frame?
- Where do all the pipes and cable go?
- What will the classroom layout be?
- What colour schemes will be adopted?
- Will it be warm/light enough?

Where are the jobs?

For each of the jobs in the list below, try to put it in the right stage of the construction process. Remember some of the jobs will be more general/back office jobs and some of the jobs could appear in many different stages. Now have a go at trying to think what the jobs do.

Stage of Construction	Name of Job	What do you think it does?
Site investigation		
Planning and design		
Site establishment and ground works		
The frame, building and contents		
General/back office jobs		

Jobs/careers in Construction companies

- Office Manager
- Accountant
- Steel fixer
- Joiner
- Heating Engineer
- Services Engineer
- Electrical Engineer
- Painter
- Bricklayer
- Document controller
- Landscape gardener
- Communications Manager
- Operations Director
- Surveyor
- Environmental consultant
- Geologist Architect
- Structural Engineer
- Planner
- Acoustic consultant
- Design Manager
- Human Resources Manager
- Marketing Manager
- Traffic Management technician
- Site operative
- Project Manager
- Construction Manager
- Quantity Surveyors
- Plasterer
- Electrician
- Plumber
- Supply Chain Manager
- Health, Safety and Environmental Manager
- Commercial Manager
- IT Manager
- Technology Manager
- Land Manager
- Installations Engineer
- Underfloor heating foreman
- Ducting engineer
- ICT technical design consultant