

REFLECTIVE ACCOUNT AND FUTURE CPD

A reflective account on my learning experience to date, and on CPD.

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What I've Learned

Having now completed 3 months in higher education on a subject I was really interested in I feel as if I both achieved more than expected in some aspect but also learnt more about what weaknesses I have and how I might need to self-develop these for my future. I have learned so much information on the different aspects in the construction industry from new technologies I hadn't heard of, to now being able to understand the basics as well as the enormous amount health and safety regulations and legislations that needs to be considered from the earliest stages. The most difficult part for me so far was the starting of fundamentals of construction and learning of the substructure aspects and going into depth on the soil types, foundation options and how to make the right decision. It was really interesting to learn and I have found it has started to appear in my day-to-day life by noticing things now that I would never have before. I like to talk about it with people more to try and keep the information fresh, but I have found it difficult to find the right people to talk with over online learning. I am fortunate that a lot of the fellow students on my modules are vocal and some have reached out separately over email and we have spoken about our personal experiences with the modules and grades which has made it a little easier to know others are in the same boat. I have learned that the industry is really pushing forward to be sustainable and that this is being heavily supported by new regulations being produced frequently which is something I have been keen to pursue in my career.

Insights this gave me

The modules and subject I've looked at thus far have really shown me how little I knew and understood of the construction industry. Having only ever experienced the sales side of a site and dealing with nearly complete products it was really eye opening to know how much background work had gone into this before I had even stepped foot on site. It has shown me that I will need to continue to expand my knowledge on this through CPD to make sure I am always learning and making sure I will be an able-bodied and competent person on site. From now participating in CPD online session and reading more in my own time I have noticed how so much of the industry ties in together, this is something I would not have picked up on before. From reading articles from CIOB's Construction Manager Magazine I am noticing that bits of information I have learned across all three modules thus far are interlinked in one project or subject. This has helped me see a little bit into the real world of construction and helped me have a wider look on the industry and how one decision might affect the other with planning, designing and onsite situations.

What I might have done differently

In retrospect, I would have liked to reach out to more fellow student. Having now spoken to a few of them I feel it would've been a lot more comforting earlier to know who else on the modules more experience or knowledge and I may have learnt a lot more that way. I don't feel like I fully used all recourses made available to me online such as CIS. This is such a huge recourse that only in the last month I have really delved into and would have benefitted more from at the start as part of CPD.

Weaknesses

After receiving some grades back on my first assignments I think my biggest weakness is time management. Although I am spending a lot of time on the assignments, I am not necessarily working efficiently and seem to spend time on the points that are not going to help me get better grades. I need to develop on this and work on making sure the time I'm spending is on the accurate information that is going to help me produce better work. I do feel like this will come with practise and the more assignments I submit and the more feedback I receive the better I will get but I could consciously look into this myself to make sure that I am more confident in my work before deadlines. I am aiming to get my work read by a possible second person before submitting to hopefully help me achieve this.

Strengths

I think one of my best strengths is my willingness to learn. I applied for this course knowing it was going to be a bit out of my depth and that I had not been in an education system for years. I knew I would have to re-learn some things such as academic writing as well as learn whole new information on an industry I wasn't heavily involved in. It was scary but I knew it was something I wanted to, and I am able to push myself into situations others might not find comfortable. Having this willingness has allowed me to attend webinars I was sure I wouldn't fully understand but to attend anyway knowing I would gain something from it. Also, by reading about subjects I hadn't covered in lectures yet to see what I could learn now and knowing it will help my future.

Self-development

It is important for me now to really take on board all advice and notes I have had back and to use those going forward. I also have full intentions on reaching out to more fellow students as I now understand they might have so much more experience in certain subjects that I could benefit from and knowing that I am prepared to return any help given. I need to use my willingness to learn in my future in CPD. I would like to gain chartership once I am qualified and by continuing to attend as much as I can now and to grow my knowledge of the industry as much as possible with the time, I have to ensure I am ready when the time comes.

CPD

After logging my CPD for the past 3 months I think I've shown myself that I am definitely keen to learn and progress in this industry. I have learnt that I will actively sort out new ways to learn and don't rely on university lectures too much. It has shown me what opportunities are also available online as we have had to adapt not just as an industry. Mostly, I am glad that I managed to do as much CPD as I have, and I intend to continue doing CPD throughout my learning. I wish I had more of an opportunity to do more practical CPD and going forward I have made contact with people I know in the industry to make plans to shadow and take part in site visits when the circumstances allow.