



Construction Cost Estimating and Estimate Assurance Course

3 – 7 January 2027
Johannesburg

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Overview

Construction Cost Estimating and Estimate Assurance Course is a five-day intermediate course for construction estimators, quantity surveyors, cost engineers, project-controls professionals, contractors, consultants, and client representatives. Participants turn scope documents into measured quantities, resource-based unit rates, direct and indirect costs, tender prices, risk allowances, and documented estimates. They also classify, benchmark, reconcile, review, and hand each approved estimate into a controlled cost baseline. Agile Leaders Training Center presents an estimate-development workflow that produces a Construction Estimate Development and Assurance Pack.

Who Should Attend

- Construction estimators responsible for preparing and documenting cost estimates
- Quantity surveyors developing quantities, rates, cost plans, and tender pricing
- Cost engineers and project-controls professionals receiving estimates into baselines
- Contractor and consultant teams reviewing scope, productivity, quotations, and risk
- Client representatives assuring estimate quality before investment or award decisions

The course assumes participants can read basic construction scope information. It focuses on estimate development and assurance rather than construction accounting, financial statements, ongoing cost reporting, or general project-management administration.

Departments and Industries

The course supports estimating teams across construction and capital-project sectors.

- Building, civil, infrastructure, utilities, and industrial construction
- Estimating, quantity surveying, cost engineering, and project controls
- Contractors, subcontractors, engineering consultancies, and client organizations
- Commercial, tendering, procurement, and preconstruction functions
- Property, energy, transport, facilities, and public works portfolios

Learning Objectives

By the end of this course, participants will be able to:



- Interpret scope maturity and select an appropriate estimate classification and method
- Develop quantity takeoffs and resource-based unit-rate build-ups
- Price labor, plant, materials, subcontract work, preliminaries, overhead, and profit
- Document assumptions, exclusions, escalation, contingency, and estimate risk
- Validate estimates through reconciliation, benchmarking, review, and approval gates
- Build a Construction Estimate Development and Assurance Pack

Course Agenda

Day 1: Estimate Basis Scope and Classification

- Estimate Purpose, Decision Gate, and Stakeholder Map
- Scope Maturity and Estimate Classification Matrix
- Basis of Estimate, Assumption, and Exclusion Register
- Work Breakdown, Cost Coding, and Estimate Structure
- Estimate Plan, Responsibility, and Data-Quality Checklist

Day 2: Quantities Resources and Unit Rates

- Drawing and Specification Review for Quantity Takeoff
- Measurement Sheet and Quantity Reconciliation Log
- Labor Crew, Productivity, and Wage-Rate Build-Up
- Plant Output, Utilization, and Equipment-Rate Build-Up
- Material Waste, Delivery, and Unit-Rate Assembly

Day 3: Market Pricing and Tender Build-Up

- Supplier and Subcontract Quotation Comparison
- Direct Cost, Indirect Cost, and Preliminaries Schedule
- Temporary Works, Logistics, and Site-Constraint Allowances
- Overhead, Profit, Tax, and Commercial Adjustment Sheet
- Tender Summary and Bid-Price Build-Up

Day 4: Risk Escalation and Estimate Assurance

- Estimate Risk, Opportunity, and Contingency Register
- Inflation, Escalation, Location, and Timing Adjustments
- Historical Benchmark and Normalization Analysis
- Estimate Reconciliation and Independent Review Checklist
- Approval Gate, Version Control, and Estimate Handover Record



Day 5: Construction Estimating Practice

- Exercise: Classify an Estimate and Build Its Basis
- Exercise: Complete a Quantity Takeoff and Unit-Rate Build-Up
- Exercise: Assemble Direct, Indirect, and Tender Costs
- Exercise: Test Risk, Benchmark, and Reconciliation Findings
- Capstone Exercise: Construction Estimate Development and Assurance Pack

Practical Exercises

The course uses suggested activities to build a transparent estimate from incomplete project information and test its fitness for decision-making.

- Suggested activity: map available design information to estimate classification, method, assumptions, and data gaps.
- Suggested activity: measure selected work items and build rates from crews, productivity, plant, materials, and waste.
- Suggested activity: normalize quotations and benchmarks before assembling preliminaries, overhead, profit, escalation, and contingency.
- Suggested activity: reconcile estimate versions, document review findings, and prepare an approved baseline handover.

FAQs

Who suits the Construction Cost Estimating and Estimate Assurance Course?

It suits estimators, quantity surveyors, cost engineers, project-controls professionals, contractors, consultants, and client representatives who prepare, review, approve, or receive construction estimates.

How does estimate assurance differ from construction cost control?

Estimate assurance tests scope, quantities, rates, assumptions, risks, benchmarks, and approvals before baseline handover. Cost control then monitors commitments, actual cost, productivity, variances, and forecasts during delivery.

What belongs in a basis of estimate?

A basis of estimate records purpose, scope, design maturity, method, data sources, measurement basis, pricing date, assumptions, exclusions, allowances, risks, escalation, and review status.

How are construction unit rates developed?

Unit rates combine labor crews and productivity, plant output and utilization, material quantities and waste, supplier inputs, subcontract pricing, and defined indirect or commercial additions.



What does the capstone deliverable contain?

The Construction Estimate Development and Assurance Pack includes an estimate basis, scope and cost structure, quantity sheets, unit-rate build-ups, market comparisons, tender summary, risk allowances, benchmarks, reconciliation, approval record, and baseline handover.

Conclusion

Participants take back a Construction Estimate Development and Assurance Pack that converts scope information into measured, priced, risk-adjusted, reviewed, and approved estimate records. The pack establishes traceability from design inputs to baseline handover without replacing project approvals, financial accounting, or ongoing cost-control reporting.