

## IOSH Accredits the Trinity College Postgraduate Diploma in Health and Safety in Construction



*The photo above shows some of the students in this year's Health and Safety in Construction diploma course on a visit to the Trinity College Biosciences site on Pearse Street, earlier this year.*

The Postgraduate Diploma course in Health and Safety in Construction, run by the Graduate School of Professional Engineering Studies and the Department of Civil, Structural and Environmental Engineering in Trinity College Dublin, has recently been given accreditation by the Institution of Occupational Safety and Health (IOSH). Students successfully completing our diploma course are eligible to apply for graduate level membership of IOSH.

IOSH was founded in 1945 and is the only chartered body for health and safety professionals. It has over 35,000 members in 85 countries.

Recognition of the course by IOSH is very important for the students who complete this course. The current safety, health and welfare legislation in Ireland requires the appointment of a competent Project Supervisor Design Process (PSDP) and a competent Project Supervisor Construction Stage (PSCS) for a construction project. The PSDP is appointed before any design work is done, and is

responsible for overseeing health and safety of design-related issues throughout the project, from initial design, through construction, to handover. The PSCS is responsible for health and safety during the construction stage, from the initial safety plan to handover of the site.

The issue of competency is a key element of the legislation. A person is deemed to be competent where he or she “possesses sufficient training, experience and knowledge appropriate to the nature of the work to be undertaken”. Successful completion of a course recognised by IOSH, is one important step in fulfilling the competency requirements.

The Postgraduate Diploma in Health and Safety in Construction has been running since 2007-2008. It was set up in response to the changes in legislation, and the general increased awareness of the importance of health and safety in construction.

This one-year postgraduate course is aimed at engineers (designers and contractors), architects, project managers, contract managers, health and safety consultants, advisors in construction, and other construction professionals. It is designed to enable them to become familiar with the latest developments in health and safety legislation, and industry best practice. In addition, the course provides them with the knowledge necessary to perform the roles of Project Supervisor, Health & Safety Coordinator, Safety Advisor, and Safety Officer. In general, the issue of health and safety related competency in design and on construction sites is comprehensively dealt with in this programme. Risk Management is a major element of the course. In particular, the principle of “Designing for Safety” is promoted. Practical examples of the application of health and safety requirements are used throughout the course, and tools are provided which can be used on a day-to-day basis.

Details about the course may be found on the website:

<http://www.tcd.ie/civileng/postgraduate/diploma/healthsafety.php>

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