



CASE STUDY: Laing O'Rourke and Serious About Youth (SAY) – Construct, Inspiring the next generation of engineers through construction

Construct is a 2-Week education programme where candidates are taken through the full life-cycle of a building project from **tender, design through to construction**.

This programme aligns with Laing O'Rourke's wider sustainability agenda of enhancing social value through inspiring the next generation and targeting disadvantaged groups in the local community.

Partners involved:

The Post Building project partnered with Serious About Youth (SAY) and another **Laing O'Rourke** Westminster-based project, **North Wharf Road** to deliver the programme.



Serious About Youth (SAY) <http://www.say-youth.org/>, is a social enterprise based in London that aims to inspire, guide and support young people to gain the life and social skills needed to live fulfilling lives and progress into employment and training.

The programme:

The programme is designed for young people from varied backgrounds and therefore this was aimed at a mixture of local NEETS (not in education, employment, or training) from the boroughs of Camden and Westminster alongside sixth-form/college students from local schools and colleges. 24 candidates were selected consisting of 12 NEETS and 12 in education from both the project's targeted boroughs. Those that wanted to work on-site and were eligible, underwent the Health and Safety Level 1 and CSCS card training with a view to obtaining a CSCS Card.

The two-week programme engaged young people through a mix of both classroom-based and practical activities which enhance essential workplace competencies. The young people got the opportunity to engage with people involved with all aspects of the construction process – from client, to consultant, to construction managers and carpenters, to give them an in-depth and rounded representation of the industry.

The focus of the programme was a practical challenge – set to two teams – to build wooden replicas of The Post Building and North Wharf Road based on the knowledge they've learnt about the projects in the classroom from our industry professionals, with support from our carpenters and construction managers from site.

Skills gained:

- Participants complete interactive employability skills training delivered by SAY, as well as training from construction/engineering professionals on relevant industry-related skills and knowledge
- A live site visit e.g. the Post building and North Wharf Road
- Digital engineers teach participants the latest in BIM technology enabling participants to complete computer modelling and measurement to create a bill of quantities for pricing and a tender presentation
- Participants are put into 2 teams, allocate roles and undergo appropriate training (e.g. Power tools training) to enable them to build a large scale model of the Post Building and North Wharf Road out of wood
- On the penultimate night of the programme, all participants present to industry professionals and the community in a unique networking evening

Outcomes:

- **100%** of the participants would recommend the Construkt programme to someone else
- **94%** of the participants felt the Construkt programme helped them become more employable
- **77%** of the participants who completed the programme went on to apply for opportunities in the construction industry
- **4** of the NEET participants have secured employment since completing the programme
- **3** of the NEET participants have secured Apprenticeships within the industry
- **9** participants successfully passed the Health & Safety Level 1 training and obtained a valid CSCS card
- **10** work experience placements planned over the summer on Laing O'Rourke sites

