

Practical Training Report for

Con1007X

Prepared for:

Karen Le Jeune

Prepared by:

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Date of submission: 31 March 2023

TERMS OF REFERENCE

Construction studies undergraduate students are required to submit a written report in accordance with the guidelines set out by the Department of Construction Economics and Management , which is endorsed by their employer/s, on the nature and duration of the experience obtained in the workplace . This must be submitted either on 31 March or 30 September each year.

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1. INTRODUCTION

1.1. Subject of and Motivation for Report

The purpose of this report is to reflect upon my practical training experience in the construction industry. This report serves as a record for my practical experience during the year of 2021 . It must entail a report on how I did my work.

1.2. Background to Investigation

This report came because of the request sent by Karen Le Jeune , who is the course convenor , stating that she requires construction studies to produce a report relative to their practical training.

1.3. Objectives of Report

- State and discuss duration of practical training done.
- State activities done during practical training.
- Reflect on what was done during the practical experience at and draw conclusions on what was learnt and also challenges faced.

1.4. Limitations and Scope of Investigation

This report is only based on the experience gained during the year of 2021 for the completion of Con1007X.

1.5. Plan of Development

The report will first describe activities that took place in the Xmas community build. Then it will focus on the practical training at Bitprop. Finally, it will speak briefly about the Jagger Library Project.

2. Submission Declaration



Faculty of Engineering and the Built Environment
Department of Construction Economics and Management
Practical Training
CON1007X, CON2013X and CON3023X

ANNEXURE C

CON1007X, CON2013X, CON3023X SUBMISSION DECLARATION

Summary of Submission

I hereby declare that I have checked on PeopleSoft that I am **correctly registered** for the appropriate practical training courses for 2023.

Herewith the summary of the hours/days/weeks worked as part of my 2023 practical training submission:

(indicate whether hours/days/weeks)

CON1007X	110	Hrs/dys/wks
CON2013X		Hrs/dys/wks
CON3023X		Hrs/dys/wks
TOTAL	110	

I further declare that I have read the 2023 course handout for the practical training requirements for the Department of Construction Economics and Management, understand the contents and acknowledge what my obligations are. By ticking the checklist, I confirm that I have adhered to the minimum submission requirements applicable for 2023.

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Report	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Employer letter(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	e-portfolio
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	URL submission (working order)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Submission declaration		

Plagiarism Declaration

1. I know that plagiarism is wrong. Plagiarism is to use another's work and pretend that it is one's own.
2. Where I have made use of referencing, I have used the prescribed UCT convention for citation and referencing. Each contribution to, and quotation in, this report from the work(s) of other people has been attributed, and has been cited and referenced.
3. This report is my own work.
4. I have not allowed, and will not allow, anyone to copy my work with the intention of passing it off as his or her own work.
5. I acknowledge that copying someone else's report or part of it, is wrong and declare that this submission comprises my own work.

Signature:..... *L Shezi*.....

Date ...31.../..03.../..23....

Full Name of Student Luthando Shezi.....

Student Number SHZLUT001.....

3. Xmas 2021 Community Build

3.1. Reflective Essay

The Community Build was a very nice experience. We took buses in the morning for the whole week to EersteRivier where the community build took place. There I was able to showcase my skills of mixing cement, therefore I was part of the designated people who would mix concrete for the groups . I really appreciated the skills I learnt in the community build, like for example, Justin , who was the guy helping us in the area , showed us how lay bricks for a wall and how to apply the necessary mortar for the bricks to be stationary , unfortunately all the bricks that we laid were stolen after we left to go home. But also, that experience of the bricks being stolen taught me that you must be conscious of the area that you'll be working and develop safety measures that will ensure the safeguarding of materials and equipment in the construction industry.

Later in the week, we spent time in the abandoned houses removing the existing ceiling, and installing new ceiling . There we had to learn how to setup scaffolding appropriately, and how to measure how much ceiling we needed. After that experience, I now knew the basics of installing ceiling. At the end of the com build, I was told that I was student with the best execution and discipline throughout all the groups, and I was awarded a doughnut.

I really enjoyed my first year practical training because it introduced the practical side of the content explained in Contech 1. I also appreciated meeting the many other students who are also doing construction studies, I even got advice from 2nd and 3rd year students on what to do and what not to do in the next years to come .

4. Bitprop

4.1. Daily Diary

I did my first-year training with Bitprop from the 13th of July 2022 to 27th July 2021 completing a total of 60 hrs. Unfortunately, I could not go to Bitprop everyday because there was a rule at Bitprop that they came to the office for 3 to 4 days per week, due to Covid-19 regulations. Below is my daily diary of my time with Bitprop.

Daily Diary: Bitprop

Total Hours Completed		60 hrs
Date	Hours of work	Activities
WEEK 1		
Tuesday (13/07/2021)	9am-5pm 8hrs	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Went to the Bitprop office and got introduced to Dylan Walls (Operations and marketing Manager) and Jonathan Fisher (CFO). Later in the day the rest of the team came by the office which included Abongile Mvukuzo (Construction Manager) and Tashriq Abrahams (Architect).Thereafter the whole gave me a summarised view of what duties they had within the company.Then I spent the day with Tashriq and Abongile.Finished off the day by attending the weekly meeting.
Wednesday (14/07/2021)	9am-4:30pm 7.5hrs	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Went to office, then after Abongile and I went to site at Khayelitsha. There we met the workers and Justice (contractor) on site.There, Abongile showed me the different sites which Bitprop engaged in and then we went to another site where a dwelling was currently being built.At the end of the day, we went back to the office.
Thursday (15/07/2021)	9am-3:30pm 6.5hrs	<ul style="list-style-type: none">We went back to the Khayelitsha sites, and there we went to a neighbouring building site which was still owned by Bitprop and there we made an observation of where the builders were at with the building and later recorded it.Then we went back to the office, and the team gave me a task to design a BOQ for a particular dwelling that was being built according to the architect's designs.

WEEK 2

Monday (19/07/2021)	9am-3pm 6hrs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Today, we went back to Khayelitsha, but this time we went to look at a new dwelling where the builders were constructing the foundation. Later, Abongile, Justice and I went on a maintenance check-up routine to the other established dwellings with tenants within Khayelitsha. There the tenants expressed their concerns about various issues they encountered while living in the dwellings. After spending some time at the sites, we went back to the office. I then started then BOQ.
Tuesday (20/07/2021)	9am-3pm 6hrs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> I went to the office today, and most of the morning I spent doing the BOQ. At first, I didn't know what to do, but after Abongile explained to me what essential things were needed for a BOQ, I got started. Later, we attended the weekly progress meeting.
Wednesday (21/07/2021)	9am-4pm 7hrs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Today, we went to site and like the week before, we observed where the builders were at, but this time they had made a lot of progress and were $\frac{3}{4}$ done with the building. Then we went to the new dwelling site where the foundation was being built, there the builders at the station were also making progress and were now at the substructure brickwork. In the afternoon, we went back to the office, and John and Abongile briefed me that I had to do a presentation of the BOQ I designed the next week.
Thursday (22/07/2021)	9am-2pm 5hrs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Arrived at the office, continued with the BOQ assignment for a while. Thereafter, Abongile and I went to Khayelitsha once again, but this time to see if the issues raised by the tenants were fixed. There, we found that some issues were fixed but also found out that some issues were not fixed because they needed a lot of work and a workforce. After that we went home because the team at Bitprop decided to work at home today.

WEEK 3

Monday (26/07/2021)	9am-4pm 7hrs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Arrived at the office, then Tashriq joined Abongile and I to go to site today. Tashriq went because he wanted to see if the builders were building according to the drawings he gave them. When we got there, he found out that some details were left out or incorrectly dimensioned.
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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> When I did my own analysis, I noticed that the builders were also done, the only component that was left was the lights and those small finishes to the door and other places. After checking on the sites once again, we went back to the office. At the office, I continued finalising my BOQ.
Tuesday (27/07/2021)	9am-4pm 7hrs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Today was my last day at Bitprop. I went to the office and made my final review on the work I would present. Then I attended the weekly progress meeting, then I presented my works and then got feedback from the team on what I did correct but also on what I needed to add. Later I said my final goodbyes towards the team and expressed gratitude by thanking all of them for allowing me to be a part of their team for the duration of my practical training.

4.2. Reflective Essay

This essay reflects what I learnt and experienced during my three weeks of practical training at Bitprop. I worked from the 13 July to 27 July 2021. Bitprop is a company that focuses on enabling landowners to turn their properties into income-generating assets that have long-term value, this then allows individuals to create a reliable pension or inheritance for children using their previously inaccessible land asset.

My duties and activities at Bitprop were mostly consistent but sometimes varied as shown in my daily report. These activities included working alongside the construction manager, attending weekly meetings and going to site to observe how the construction activities were done and etc.

On my first day, I met John Fisher (CFO) and, Dylan Walls who is the operations and marketing manager. A few hours later Tashriq (architect) and Abongile (construction manager) came by to the office. They were very welcoming to me. I was also told that Carl, who is the founder will be coming soon, unfortunately, I wasn't able to meet him because due to him having to deal with other stuff, therefore he came after my practical training period. There after the whole team gave me an overview of what duties they do within the company. Then I finished off the last day by attending the weekly meeting.

For the majority of the first week, I spent most of my time in the Khayelitsha sites. I got to see the two dwellings which were about to be finished and another dwelling that was in the foundation phase. My duties on site was to observe how the workers had done the work and also I had to create a snags list, and eventually design my own BOQ.

In second week, I got an opportunity to join Abongile and Justice (contractor) to a maintenance check-up routine. In one of the dwellings, the tenants expressed their frustration that water is

coming from the ceiling , thereafter , it was discovered that the dwelling had a ventilation issue , in the sense that when they shower , steam could not flow out the windows quickly and efficiently enough , therefore it gathered in the ceilings . Thereafter, we went to another client where she complained that when it rains , the water doesn't flow at all down the pavement , but instead gathers around the dwelling and later on the water gets into the house . So, after some careful observations , they discovered that the pavement wasn't sloping enough for water to flow down . The day after, I started the BOQ ,which was very complicated at the start but eventually with the construction manager's assistant , I was able to grasp what she was teaching me .

In the second half of the second week, I went to site again and I went back to check on the completion of the buildings, I discovered that the workers really worked hard and were now $\frac{3}{4}$ done with the building. With the new building that was in the foundation phase, they were now in substructure brickwork . At the end of the week , I was informed that I should prepare a presentation for my designed BOQ for the next week .

In my final week, I got to see how the architect checks how the builders responded to the drawings he provided them . Unfortunately, he discovered that some details were left out or incorrectly dimensioned. On my last day at Bitprop, I did my presentation , and then got feedback , most of the feedback was good , and some of the other feedback was just to add stuff which were missing . After that, I said my final goodbyes and showed my appreciation by thanking the entire team for the opportunity to work alongside them.

Lessons Learnt

During my time at Bitprop, I got introduced to the building sector of the construction industry . There, I got to experience how the construction manager interacted with the companies' tenants, customers and the contractors and the artisans. I also got to experience how a team of people in company can work together to accomplish a single goal.

What I really appreciated, was that I was able to witness when things didn't go well, e.g, in one of the houses already built, the tenant contacted Bitprop and told them that water was going through the ceiling, so we checked that out , and later workers were brought to fix the issue . Another one was when another tenant contacted to state that when it rains, the rain doesn't flow properly on the pavement, bit instead gathers in one area and goes into the house. So, these situations made me learn how the construction manager and contractor reacts or responds to issues that come within the project . I feel like this is a very critical skill to know how to handle situations when things go wrong because in the construction industry, success of a project is not always guaranteed and the chances of something going bad is very likely. I also got to learn how to inspect and observe the architects drawings, although this was a skill I obtained from high school by doing subjects like EGD, they showed me a different way of perceiving a drawing which really helped . I also discovered that sometimes workers don't follow the architect's drawings. I think this is a common issue in the construction industry and I believe the only way to resolve this issue is for the different construction teams to be in constant communication so costs of repairing or rebuilding can be reduced.

What I also appreciated, was how the construction manager and the workers were interacting with each other, they were very respectful towards each party, even when issues arose, they handled it professionally without fighting or causing chaos. I also appreciated learning about

constructing a BOQ (Bill of Quantities). Even though it wasn't in my course content for 1st year, I know that it'll put me in a better position when I learn about the BOQ in future courses to come.

I also learnt how to present findings to a team, as I was required to present my BOQ towards the whole team. Although I made many mistakes, it was great learning experience , and I took all of the advices that they gave me afterwards .This experience has helped me in Professional Communications , because we learn about how to present findings .

Challenges Faced

The main thing that was a challenge for me was that I couldn't go to Bitprop everyday due to Covid regulations , so I feel like that hindered me from experiencing and learning more from the company. Another challenging thing was the development of the BOQ, since I had no idea how to do one, but likely I was provided with sample BOQ and from there forth I was able to complete my own one.

In conclusion, I really enjoyed my time at Bitprop, they showed me a glimpse of what I should expect in the industry as I'm planning to become a construction management.

5. Jagger Library Project

5.1. Brief Description

During April 2021, a massive fire came down from the mountain and spread across Upper Campus at UCT. Many things and buildings were burnt, however in the Jagger Library, some books were still fine. So, the department sent out an email asking for students to volunteer getting books out of the library. I then took part of the project. I only went for one shift, however I saw the massive damage that the fire caused on campus. I was designated to be a part of the people carrying books from the library to the elevator. We had to wear masks because of the smell and the mould that had developed.