

R2S Career Factsheet: Quantity Surveyor

“Depending on the desire and discipline of the individual I would say that reading about the various routes into surveying would be a good first step to understand the different roles on offer. If after this period of ‘research’ you are still determined to pursue quantity surveying in particular, then you must have a ‘natural’ ability to compute numbers, a wide knowledge of construction together with an eye for detail. Also, try and get as much work experience as possible. Do not limit yourself to seeking only ‘surveying’ experience, look at the wider industry and get on site as often as possible and see how things are ‘put together’. Try and expose yourself to as much ‘hands on’ construction work as physically possible. Apprenticeships and Traineeships are a great entry point in comparison to the more formal route of GCSE / NVQ / BTEC and/or first degree. During the degree stages of your career always be prepared to seek unpaid work or better still, an internship. Once you graduate, any experience will be seen as a positive step in terms securing a job and starting your professional APC diary [i.e. the Assessment of Professional Competence].”



Bola Abisogun,
Founder and
Executive Director
Urbanis Limited

Duties:

- Carrying out studies to estimate materials, time and labour costs
- Negotiating and drafting of bids for tenders and contractors
- Monitoring each stage of construction to make sure that costs spent are in line with the budget
- Providing financial progress reports to clients
- Advising clients on legal and contractual matters
- Acting on clients' behalf to resolve disputes

Skills:

- Good knowledge of construction materials and methods
- Budget handling skills
- A systematic approach to work
- Excellent maths, science, technology and IT skills
- Good organisational skills
- A clear understanding of building regulations and other legal guidelines
- Excellent communication and negotiating skills
- The ability to work as part of a team

You need a degree or professional qualification accredited by the Royal Institution for Chartered Surveyors (RICS) to qualify as a chartered quantity surveyor. Relevant subjects include: Surveying, Construction, Civil Engineering, and Structural Engineering.

If you are already working in engineering or construction, you could take a part-time distance learning postgraduate degree while working – many of RICS's accredited postgraduate degrees are available part-time or distance learning.

If you have a BTEC HNC, HND or foundation degree in surveying, you may be able to start work as a surveying technician then complete further study to qualify as a quantity surveyor.

What does a quantity surveyor do?

Quantity surveyors are the cost managers of construction. They are initially involved with the capital expenditure phase of a building or facility, which is the feasibility, design and construction phases, but they can also be involved with the extension, refurbishment, maintenance and demolition of a facility. Quantity surveyors work in all sectors of the construction industry worldwide.

Who employs quantity surveyors?

- Local Authorities
- Government Agencies
- Private sector companies

How much can you earn?

- Starting salaries can be between £20,000 and £25,000 a year
- With experience this can rise to between £25,000 and £45,000
- Senior chartered quantity surveyors can earn between £50,000 and £80,000 a year.

Career Development:

- Project management
- Engineering and Risk Assessment
- Chain Management and Legal Services
- Capital Allowances and Taxes

Useful Resources:

http://www.prospects.ac.uk/quantity_surveyor_vacancy_sources.htm

<https://nationalcareersservice.direct.gov.uk/advice/planning/jobprofiles/Pages/quantitysurveyor.aspx>

<http://worldranking.blogspot.co.uk/2010/11/top-quantity-surveying-universities.html>

Top universities for

Quantity Surveying:

1. Northumbria University
2. University of Greenwich
3. University of Portsmouth