

“Becoming chartered as soon as possible after completing your degree course will fast track your career in surveying”.

Introduction

James is employed by Kendall Kingscott as a Chartered Quantity Surveyor. Kendall Kingscott is a multi-disciplinary consultancy operating in the construction sector offering architectural, building surveying, quantity surveying, interior design and principal designer services. Kendall Kingscott has regional offices in Bristol, Exeter, Ringwood and Teddington.



Image: James Bennett, Chartered Quantity Surveyor – Kendall Kingscott

How did you get started in your career?

Whilst studying at school for my A-Levels in English, Business Studies and Law, I considered various university courses and eventually decided on Quantity Surveying. I studied for a BSc (Hons) in Quantity Surveying at the University of Central England (now known as Birmingham City University). Following university I started my first job as an Assistant Quantity Surveyor working for a private practice in Bath. I became chartered in 2010 after passing the RICS (Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors) Assessment of Professional Competence.

Can you outline a typical work day?

My working days are quite varied and can consist of pre-contract duties (feasibility cost plans for new construction projects, attending design team meetings, preparation of contract documents) and post-contract duties (interim valuations, attending progress meetings, agreeing final accounts).

What do you enjoy most about your job?

I enjoy being part of a project team from feasibility stage to final account. It is satisfying to see a design for a building project develop and then witness the project progressing on site to completion. Managing the financial aspects of a project to a successful conclusion can be fulfilling.

What skills are important for anyone wishing to start in your profession?

Computer literacy; communication skills; effective time management.

What main personal attributes do you think is important for your type of job?

A conscientious approach to tasks; attention to detail.

Do you have any tips or suggestions on how young people and adults can enter your industry?

A good route to entering the construction industry is a further education course (eg HNC) in Construction Technology. Following this a degree in a chosen specialism (eg Quantity Surveying or Building Surveying) is necessary.

What career progression opportunities are available in your business/sector?

There is a huge scope for career progression within the construction industry. In the surveying specialism, it is important to become chartered as this is a good indicator of professional ability.

Why is it important for your sector to attract and train young people and new entrants?

With young people and new entrants embarking on a career in construction, a continued source of new ideas and alternative approaches are provided.

What trends do you predict for your industry within the next 10 years? E.g. is it a growing market requiring more young entrants

I believe there will be improved facilities for the transfer of design information between disciplines (architects, engineers, surveyors). This has already started with BIM (Building Information Modelling) and will almost certainly increase. Also, with increasing energy prices, there will possibly be more of an interest from clients in life cycle costing which looks at the total cost of a building during its lifetime (including energy usage and maintenance) rather than focusing just on the initial capital cost.

General words of advice

Becoming chartered as soon as possible after completing your degree course will fast track your career in surveying.

Further contact/information

Further information about Kendall Kingscott can be found on their website www.kendallkingscott.co.uk

For more information on becoming an Architect, simply search the Job Profiles on the National Careers Service website.