

## BUILDING PLACES AND SPACES

Building  
surveyor

If you want a career that will really show you how the property industry ticks, building surveying could be for you. Building surveyors provide professional advice on new buildings, refurbishments and extensions. They specify and supervise works and make sure properties conform to regulations on public access, health and safety, energy conservation and more. There are many routes into surveying - a degree in surveying or property being an obvious, but not essential one. In fact, the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors (RICS) welcomes graduates from other backgrounds for their alternative perspective and is keen to get more women into the profession.

## Degree needed

Normally you need an accredited degree in building surveying, which meets the academic requirements of a professional body. The Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors (RICS) is the main professional body.

The Chartered Institute of Building (CIOB), the Association of Building Engineers (ABE) and the British Institute of Facilities Management (BIFM) also offer related professional qualifications.

RICS points out that the profession is also interested in attracting graduates without a property or surveying-related degree because it values their skills, knowledge and alternative perspective.

To become a chartered surveyor you need a degree that is accredited by RICS and need to undertake the Assessment of Professional Competence course run by RICS, which includes training and practical experience.

## Good courses

- BA Hons Business of Real Estate (Oxford Brookes University)
- BA Hons/ BSc Hons Construction Business Management (University of Greenwich)
- BEng Hons Civil Engineering (University of Nottingham)



Adam Dawson at work  
Graduate Building Surveyor, Drivers Jonas



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what if?

Your career - our future

- BSc Hons Building Control (Glasgow Caledonian University)
  - BSc Hons Building Surveying (University of Salford)
- This is just a small selection of accredited courses. Please see the RICS website for more courses.

## Facts and Figures

## Starting salary

- Average salary of £24,000 three years after leaving university.
- Average salary for a partner in a surveying firm is over £73,500.

## Working hours

Generally 9am to 5pm.

## Days' holiday per year

On average 25 days per year.

## Skills and experience

Building surveyors need to be strong in maths and IT and have good organisational and communication skills.

## Would suit

This career would suit someone who is a 'people person' and is good at forming relationships, as it involves talking to a wide range of people.

## Likely employer types

- Large multinational construction and property firms
- Small private surveying practices
- Local authorities
- Professionals can also work for banks, insurance companies, department stores and hotels



Meet the expert  
Adam Dawson,  
Drivers Jonas

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## Did you know?

RICS is very keen to encourage more women into this field of work, as currently women make up just 15% of surveyors.

## How many jobs available?

Building surveyors are in considerable demand nationally.

## Number of people employed in this field

RICS has 12,000 members worldwide.

## More information

- The Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors website includes information on building surveying as well as links to accredited courses [www.rics.org](http://www.rics.org)
- The Association of Building Engineers is a professional body for those specialising in the technology of building [www.abe.org.uk](http://www.abe.org.uk)
- The Chartered Institute of Building website offers advice on all aspects of the building profession and details of training available [www.ciob.org.uk](http://www.ciob.org.uk)
- The Construction Industry Council website offers careers and learning advice [www.cic.org.uk](http://www.cic.org.uk)
- The Jobs in Surveying website has details of private, public and commercial jobs in surveying [www.jobsinsurveying.co.uk](http://www.jobsinsurveying.co.uk)

"The will to invest in greener buildings is there but people are nervous about getting it wrong. My job gives me the chance to try and change things from the inside."