

BUILDING PLACES AND SPACES

Land
surveyor

Where there's building there's a land surveyor, whose job it is to research and advise on potential construction sites and produce reports on sites that have already been developed. Land surveyors are in big demand thanks to a land market boom and because they're key in protecting the environment by building sea defences and looking after the world's reefs. It's a challenging job for someone who's organised and likes working in a team. You'll need to be technically minded, usually with a degree in surveying or engineering. Depending on the type of work, the money can be good and you may get to travel overseas.

Degree needed

A degree in surveying or engineering is usually required, followed by the accreditation of the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors (RICS) or the Institution of Civil Engineers.

Good courses

- BEng Hons / MEng Hons Geoinformatics (University College London)
- BSc Geomatics (Dublin Institute of Technology)
- BSc Hons Surveying and Mapping Science (University of Newcastle)
- BEng Hons / MEng Civil Engineering (University of Nottingham)

The above are examples of the courses accredited by RICS. There is a full list on www.rics.org

Facts and figures

Starting salary

Salaries start at £23,000, but can reach £30,000 after three years.

Working hours

40 hours a week on average.

Days' holiday per year

25 upwards, depending on salary package.

Skills and experience

Land surveyors need to be able to work in a team and have excellent communication and organisational skills.

Did you know?

The job offers vast potential for foreign travel with 40 per cent of UK-based land surveyors working abroad at any given time.

More information

- For details of professional development and qualifications, visit RICS at www.rics.org or the Institution of Civil Engineers at www.ice.org.uk
- For information about training, visit the Construction Industry Training Board website at www.constructionskills.net

Would suit

The technically minded who relish big challenges on both short and long term projects, and enjoy shouldering responsibility and travelling.

Likely employer types

- Central and local government organisations
- Construction and property development firms
- Specialist surveying companies
- Banks, building societies and insurance companies

How many jobs available?

There are no statistics, but RICS says demand is growing rapidly.

Number of people employed in this field

Around 3,000 in the UK.



Alex Lea at work

Development Land Monitoring Officer, Leicester City Council



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Alex Lea,
Leicester City Council



"Housing is a hot topic right now and it's great to know that I'm influencing decisions at a higher level, producing the figures and plans that give people places to live."

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