

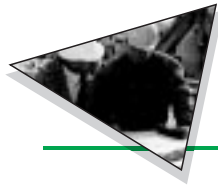
Quantity surveying as a career

In the highly pressurised world of spiralling costs and large-scale development, the quantity surveyor's role within the building industry is even more essential now than in 1785, when the profession was established in England.

Quantity surveying is a superb career for men and women who have the desire to involve themselves in the exciting world of construction and property development.

A quantity surveyor is a highly trained, independent professional with outstanding analytical and organisational abilities. Quantity surveyors are construction economists who fulfil varied and comprehensive duties to support cost-effective construction and property development projects. They enjoy the challenges of the dynamic construction industry and they offer essential, expert project management skills.

Anyone who is considering building or investing in construction projects needs expert advice on financial and contractual matters. No matter how simple or complex the project may be, the quantity surveyor provides valuable advice throughout the various stages of project development.



The work of a quantity surveyor

Architects and engineers are responsible for the design aspects of construction projects, contractors are responsible for the erection of those projects, and quantity surveyors are responsible for planning and control of expenditure on construction and other projects and for accounting accurately for that expenditure.

Acting as the financial consultant to the construction and development industry, the quantity surveyor is involved from conception to final completion of project.

The quantity surveyor is well qualified to prepare initial budgets and feasibility studies prior to detailed design. Once the client is committed to the project, the quantity surveyor is employed to monitor

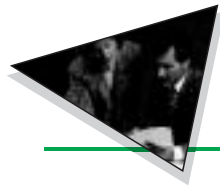
design in terms of capital expenditure, operating and maintenance costs and long term depreciation.

The quantity surveyor advises the client on tendering and contractual options, prepares tender and contract documentation, receives tenders from potential contractors and advises on the appointment of a suitable contractor.

During the construction phase, the quantity surveyor manages cash flow, arranges payments to contractors and evaluates the final cost of the project.

The quantity surveyor's involvement need not cease on completion of the construction phase, but may be extended to include operations and maintenance management and leasing.

The quantity surveyor's financial, contractual and legal skills can be applied to ongoing property or "facilities management".



Personal attributes

The quantity surveyor works in conjunction with architects, consulting engineers and contractors, safeguarding the client's interests as an independent professional with specialist skills.

Quantity surveyors must be able to liaise with other people at all levels whether they are developers, architects, engineers, land surveyors, builders, manufacturers, lawyers, accountants, or colleagues in other sectors of commerce and industry.

Quantity surveyors are expected to maintain the highest level of professionalism, ensuring fair and accurate finalisation of projects. In performing their duties quantity surveyors need to be innovative, ambitious, able to "think on their feet" and willing to take risks. They should also have an aptitude for arithmetic, and the ability to express themselves clearly and competently in the spoken and written word. They should be able to cope with pressure and should have excellent negotiation skills.

A quantity surveyor is often called upon to lead the professional team as project manager.



Employment opportunities

Employment opportunities vary considerably depending on the economic climate – as with many other careers. In general, most quantity surveyors find employment in private quantity surveying practices, but a career as a quantity surveyor cultivates qualities of leadership and allows members of the profession to excel in many other fields as well, such as in:

- ▶ Construction companies – managing the construction process on site
- ▶ Property development companies – initiating and managing new building projects
- ▶ Industrial development companies – mining, petro-chemical installations, airports, shipbuilding, motor industry, power stations
- ▶ Financial institutions (banks and building societies) initiating the development of new projects and liaising with professional consultants during the construction process
- ▶ The Public sector (government departments, local authorities, municipalities) – providing quantity surveying services for government projects, maintenance of government buildings and liaison with professional consultants
- ▶ Community service projects – providing consultancy services for the provision of houses, development of the infra-structure, initiating "design and supply" projects, preparation of material lists and ordering of building materials for emerging contractors and owner-builders, advising on contract types and tendering procedures
- ▶ Other specialist opportunities – research (at universities, technikons, Council for Scientific Industrial Research and Human Sciences Research Council), education and training (as lecturers at universities, technikons, colleges and informal sector training programmes), legal advice, consultancy services (settlement of disputes related to building work), valuations of buildings (for

insurance, fire damage or expropriation purposes), investment (advice on investment in property, shares and unit trusts)

- Computer programming and advice – (development of computer programmes for consultants in the construction industry and advising on suitable software, hardware, networks and systems maintenance).

Remuneration

Being a member of a recognised profession – like medical doctors, architects, accountants and others – the quantity surveyor earns a salary that is in keeping with the status of the profession. Initiative, enthusiasm, commitment to personal skills development and hard work results in substantial financial reward.



Qualification as a quantity surveyor or quantity surveying assistant

Quantity surveying is an internationally recognised profession and a degree awarded by any of the six South African universities is recognised in several other countries.

Anyone who wishes to become a quantity surveyor can qualify to enter the profession at various levels, by studying at university to become a practising quantity surveyor, or at a technikon to become a quantity surveying technician with a development path that will lead to full registration:

- A four-year full-time or five-year part-time B Sc (Quantity Surveying) university degree
- A three-year technikon diploma advancing to a B-Tech (Quantity Surveying) degree after a further year of study
- A three-year QCP certificate course through distance learning presented by the UOFS

Within all these levels of entry, a route exists for advancement to full registration as a professional practising quantity surveyor.



Who to contact

UNIVERSITIES

Cape Town	Tel 021-650 3443	Fax 021-689 7564
Orange Free State (Bloemfontein)	Tel 051-401 9111	Fax 051-447 4152
Natal (Durban)	Tel 031-260 2687	Fax 031-260 1252
Port Elizabeth	Tel 041-504 2669	Fax 041-504 2574
Pretoria	Tel 012-420 9111	Fax 012-342 2712
Witwatersrand (Johannesburg)	Tel 011-716 1111	Fax 011-403 1926

TECHNIKONS

Cape Technikon (Cape Town)	Tel 021-460 3911	Fax 021-467 564
Mangosuthu (Durban)	Tel 031-907 7261	Fax 031-907 7208
ML Sultan (Durban)	Tel 031-308 5385	Fax 031-308 5396
Natal (Durban)	Tel 031-204 2238	Fax 031-204 2197
Northern Gauteng (Pta North)	Tel 01214-91 2211	Fax 01214-91 2203
Peninsula (Bellville)	Tel 021-948 8301	Fax 021-949 7329
Port Elizabeth	Tel 041-504 3295	Fax 041-504 3491
Pretoria	Tel 012-318 5242	Fax 012-318 5568
Witwatersrand (Johannesburg)	Tel 011-406 2157	Fax 011-406 2760

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Contact:

The Association of South African Quantity Surveyors

P O Box 3527, Halfway House, 1685
Tel 011-315 4140 Fax 011-315 3785
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QS Edutech Centre

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Quantity Surveying

*A Challenging
Professional Career*