

A Day in the Life

Trainee Quantity Surveyor

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My name is Leah and I am a Trainee Quantity Surveyor. I am currently in my first year studying Quantity Surveying and Construction Commercial Management at Nottingham Trent University, which I attend one day a week.

I joined B+K after completing my A-levels in Maths, Geography and Sociology. In the first year of sixth form I was very unsure about what I wanted to do after finishing my A-levels, however I attended a course that was aimed at making students aware of the construction industry – which I had never considered before. Attending this course opened my eyes to all the different types of jobs available in the construction industry – including Quantity Surveying. After doing some research I came across Bowmer and Kirkland who have an excellent reputation in the construction industry, and after completing a week's work experience, I was impressed by the enthusiasm of all the employees and the focus on working as a team.

What I enjoy most about working as a Trainee Quantity Surveyor is the fact

that I learn something new every-day, working in such a diverse environment, means that I am learning how to overcome challenges and I am also able to meet and communicate with all types of people across the industry. Going into construction, I did consider how being female in a male-dominated industry would affect me, if at all.

But I have found since starting at Bowmer and Kirkland, that I have been made to feel like a valued member of the team, and I thoroughly enjoy working and fulfilling the responsibilities I have been given so far.

A typical day for me starts at 8.00am in a morning I am usually looking through my emails and responding to any emails that can be quickly replied to or resolved and I look over the list of tasks I have to complete and prioritise them, depending on what I have to do for the day.

At 9.30am: I may go out on site with another member of the team. Going out on site is a useful way to visualise what you see on drawings, and I always take this opportunity to ask questions about anything I see that I am unsure of. I also always take pictures of general progress, and if I am pricing a certain area of the site that is going to be changed, taking a picture of what is already existing in that area is helpful when it comes to producing a bill of quantities.

10.30am: I start working on ongoing tasks that I have been given. This can be anything from measuring and pricing a variation to tracking our preliminary costs, sorting subcontract payments or attending meetings.

1.00pm: After lunch, I will look back at emails that I have received during the day and respond to them, as well as actioning the ones I didn't get a chance to respond to in the morning.



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I also reconvene with the Senior Quantity Surveyor that I work with to discuss any further tasks that need completing.

3.00pm: I then carry on with the tasks that I have been given or new tasks that I have received. If I finish doing these, I will carry on with longer-term ongoing tasks such as chasing missing VAT receipts, updating the agency staff schedule etc.

A typical day for me finishes at 5.00-5.15pm. at the end of the day I usually review any new tasks that I have done and add that to a record of development document that I keep, I will then write a list of all the tasks I still need to complete, ready for the next day.

The main challenge I face, working as a trainee, is balancing tasks at work, with university deadlines. However, I have achieved good grades so far with the support I have received from Bowmer and Kirkland which has been extremely helpful, there are many who have also already completed the course, who are always available to assist and answer questions. Overall the invaluable experience I have gained far outweighs any challenges and I would highly recommend an apprenticeship with Bowmer and Kirkland.

