

Life at CPC



Luke Matthews Assistant Quantity Surveyor

Describe your typical day....

My typical day starts with a large coffee and a look at what tasks I have outstanding; usually, this will be planned around meetings such as design progress meetings and site progress meetings. The project tasks I undertake span both pre and post contract which provides exposure to both design and construction aspects of the industry. Typical project related tasks range from negotiating post contract variations with contractor quantity surveyors, discussing and agreeing monthly valuations whilst reviewing progress of works on site, to others such as producing cost estimates for clients and even having input on programming and viability of larger masterplan schemes local to my home town.

How did you get started?

I originally graduated university as a business management undergraduate, which after heading to a quantity surveying open day for my younger brother, along with crossing paths with surveyors during my placement year as a procurement assistant, I knew the role was one that I wanted to pursue immediately. From there I returned to Liverpool John Moores university upon completion of my undergraduate studies and undertook a master's degree in quantity surveying, during the course of which I started at CPC as a graduate.

What do you love about your job?

I really enjoy the exposure to both pre and post contract construction that my role provides me with, not only does this allow you to well-round your knowledge of design and construction, but also provides varied challenges along the way. I also really appreciate being able to be out on site as part of my role, meeting with project teams and building relationships with other members of the industry.



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What advice do you have for those thinking about a career in quantity surveying?

My advice would be to research the varying types of role/activities that fall under the heading of Quantity Surveyor. Personally, I did work experience at a contracting organisation, and now I'm working at CPC which is a consultancy. So, I would say the earlier you understand the differences, the more likely you will be able to pin point a QS role that suits you.

What do you like doing outside of work?

I like to play/watch football outside of work, alongside other activities such as golf and gym. I also enjoy utilising the weekends to catch up with friends and visit new places within the UK now that we no longer live with restrictions!

What has been your biggest challenge since the Covid-19 pandemic?

My biggest challenge, without doubt has been having to learn how to undertake all aspects of my role from home. I actually did my first day in the office in March 2020, which my second day was when we were instructed to WFH! I much prefer working/learning in and around people and so with the easing of lockdown I wasted no time getting to the office and out on site!

What is/would your alternative career be?

I have never thought of an alternative career however with my interests being in active/sports I would say something along those lines. I do also have a strong interest in food/cooking and would back myself to be a handy chef!