

Life at CPC



Ryan Rivers
Quantity Surveyor

Describe your typical day....

My typical day consists of a variety of client meetings, team catch ups and delivering work for a number of schemes. Things at CPC are very busy, in a good way. The delivery side consists of producing cost reports, cost plans, reviewing provisional sums, reviewing contractor valuations. Each day seems to be slightly different.

How did you get started?

My career as a QS began 5 years ago when I realised I wasn't cut out for being on the freezing cold building site at 7am as an electrician and wanted a new challenge, but one which didn't waste my site knowledge. I signed myself up to University and things progressed from there. I started at a property developer, then joined CPC mid-2020.

What do you love about your job?

The constant challenges and variety of projects. Since being at CPC, I have been working on high-end Residential schemes to Business Enterprise Centres to the odd Life Sciences project. No two projects are the same, and I've found I really enjoy building a view on a project for clients at very early stages. Since a few projects have commenced into the construction phase, I've always enjoyed visiting for valuations and seeing the development you've worked on since RIBA Stage 1 progress.



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

I would research the range of options within the industry, for instance, being Consultant, or Contractor side and have a think about what you prefer. Also, have a think whether you might prefer Project Management or even being part of the Design team.

What do you like doing outside of work?

After work I catch up with my friends, sometimes play some golf, and sporadically go to the gym. I try to make the most of my evenings and cook when I can as well as I fancy myself as a good chef. I'm currently working towards my RICS chartership, so this takes up some time outside of work hours.

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

My biggest challenge has been starting at CPC! However, everyone in the team has been brilliant, so although starting a new job whilst working from home was pretty daunting, it really wasn't long before I felt part of the team. I do find it difficult to finish work at a set time, so I do try to head into the office now as much as possible now things are getting back to normal.

What is/would your alternative career be?

I never knew what I wanted to be/do when I was younger, I always thought it was easy to become a footballer... sadly it wasn't! I think if I wasn't a QS, I would've loved to work in branding, something that involves a bit of creativity? Maybe I would be a golf coach - but passing on my bad golf habits wouldn't benefit anyone!