

# Life at CPC



## Ryan Rivers Assistant 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!