



Dear students

This week we focus on Quantity Surveying. If you have a good knowledge of construction methods and materials, are well organized and want a professional level job, this job could be ideal for you. If you've never heard of this occupation but have always wanted to have a good job in the construction industry, this article may be of some help to you!

- Martina

The role of Quantity Surveyors

Quantity surveyors are highly qualified members of a profession that play an indispensable role in building, construction and allied industries, including mining.

They give advice on cost and contractual matters and prepare contract documents. They work with architects and consulting engineers to ensure that their client's interests are safeguarded. As professional advisors they give advice to property developers and investors in fixed property. They also assist with the valuation of property for insurance purposes.

Quantity surveyors can also be described as 'building economists'. The quantity surveyor acts mainly in the area of cost (particularly cost to the client) and is a member of a professional team which may include architects, engineers, and electrical and mechanical engineers, all of whom are appointed to advise their client on various aspects of a particular building project.

Quantity surveyors' training and experience enable them to offer the following services:

- preparation of estimates, feasibility studies and budgets for building projects
- preparation of tender documentation for competitive tendering
- negotiation of contracts
- advice on contractual arrangements and tender procedures
- evaluation of progress on building projects
- exercising of cost control during the design and construction phases
- settlement of the final costs of the project with the contractor and subcontractors.

Quantity surveyors may spend a great deal of time on building sites, checking on things being delivered and being constructed. Their offices are sometimes on site, although in most instances their offices are in buildings similar to those that might house architects or civil engineers.

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QUALITIES OF A QUANTITY SURVEYOR

Being a successful quantity surveyor requires a certain level of expertise. Quantity surveyors must keep updated with developments in regulations relating to property construction and must be aware of the appropriate legal guidelines when negotiating with clients and vendors. Additionally they should have:

- An excellent understanding of construction methods and materials
- The ability to manage finances
- A high level of IT competency
- Excellent mathematics skills
- Good attention to detail
- A creative approach to problem solving
- An organized and methodical approach to tasks
- Excellent communication skills, both written and verbal
- Excellent negotiation abilities
- The ability to work effectively as part of a team
- The ability to write reports and manage databases
- Excellent interpersonal skills
- A willingness and ability to relate to lots of different people
- The ability to stay calm as deadlines approach
- A commitment to the job and a willingness to work long hours.



The Institute of Namibian Quantity Surveyors, INQS, is a non-profit, statutory institution. The purpose of the Institute is to promote quantity surveying and sound practice among the Namibian quantity surveying professions and general public of Namibia. BURSARIES are awarded yearly. Application forms are available online at <http://www.inqs.org.na/images/stories/bursary> or contact them at Tel #: 061—228970.

REQUIREMENTS & TRAINING

SCHOOL SUBJECTS

Possession of at least a **HIGCSE** Grade 12 or equivalent qualification with matriculation exemption is needed for admission to South African universities.

Each institution will have its own minimum entry requirements.

Compulsory Subjects: Mathematics, Physical Sciences

Recommended Subjects: Accounting

TRAINING

Degree: BSc Quantity Surveying - UJ, UKZN, NMMU, UFS, UCT, UP, Wits. Those who have completed their degrees must do 2 or 3 years practical work under the supervision of a qualified quantity surveyor.

Diploma: Universities of technology offer a 4-year programme in quantity surveying. A National Diploma in Building is awarded after 3 years (the first and third year full-time and the second year part-time), and a B Tech Quantity Surveying degree after a further year of full-time study. Only students who perform sufficiently well are eligible for the degree. CPUT, DUT and TUT offer the programme.

After the completions of such training at either university or technikon level, the candidate can register with the Namibian Council for Architects and Quantity Surveyors.

UNAM does not offer these courses.

Graduates from both universities and universities of technology can advance to full registration as professional quantity surveyors.

PERSONALITY

A prospective candidate should have mathematical and computer skills, She/he must possess analytical thinking and problem solving attributes.

WORK OPPORTUNITIES

Construction quantity surveyors are employed by government departments, provincial administrations, municipalities and private firms as well as by universities as lecturers in this field



FOOD FOR THOUGHT

The difference between Land and Quantity surveying



Land surveying is a crucial step in beginning the construction the primary property boundaries on your site, and product process. Land surveyors will accurately measure and mark out the preliminary markers to set out where your new home will be situated on the property.

This investigation will ensure that your property borders are accurate, and that your house is built exactly where it's supposed to go. Getting these measurements right is vital if you want to avoid building or legal problems after construction begins.

Land surveyor vs. building surveyor vs. quantity surveyor

To help prevent confusion, it's worth explaining here that there is a big difference between a 'land surveyor', a 'building surveyor' and a 'quantity surveyor'. The land surveyor takes care of assessing the spatial layout of the site, as described above. Building surveyors deal with legal issues and permits surrounding planning and construction, and quantity surveyors are responsible for keeping an inventory of costs and materials used for construction.



References: : *Min of Labour & Social Welfare - Careers in Namibia 2005/2006*



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