

Michael Bute

Job title: Quantity Surveyor



How long have you been in your role?

17 Years

How did you get in your role?

I have been with the group for 39 years, starting as a Painting & Decorator. During my apprenticeship I was offered to role in the office as an estimator/surveyor. For the next 12 years I moved into different disciplines such as Procurement and Bonus Surveying before I got a role as an Assistant Quantity Surveyor 24 years ago. I enjoyed the role and picked Quantity Surveying as my preferred career path. I went back to university and got a Quantity Surveying degree and got prompted to the role of Quantity Surveyor in 2009.

What do you enjoy most about the role?

I enjoy the fast pace and enjoy the interaction with other disciplines within the construction industry e.g. Site Managers, Architects, Engineers, Accounts, Finance, Subcontractor's, etc. The role keeps me driven and focused and the interaction with the different disciplines means no days ever feel the same. It great to see the scheme through from conception to completion and to see an empty open space turned into a quality new build housing estate. It is rewarding to know you are a vital part of a team that is producing a great product for our customers.

What challenges do you face?

The role is very demanding in relation to hitting tight deadlines for contractors payments and cost reports which I must produce for senior management. This information needs to be reported accurately so actions can be taken to mitigate financial losses and deal with poor contractor performance. You must be able to follow strict guidelines and procedures as external auditing is done on a regular basis.

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What skills/qualifications do you require for your role?

A good knowledge of the construction industry is helpful. This knowledge can be gained through practical experience on site or academically through college. Most people I work with have both but not necessarily to a degree level. Basic Maths and English skills are required as you are dealing with financial figures and preparing reports on a regular basis. Another requirement for the role is being computer literate as you are using different systems for collating and reporting information. Finally, you need good people skills due to wide range of personnel you are dealing with and the sensitive nature of the work e.g., paying contractors and reporting on performance.

What advice would you give to someone considering this as a career option?

Be prepared to work hard, be comfortable communicating with a wide range of people and if required take a leading role. Don't be surprised about the flexibility of the role where every day may be different. You will always be learning and making a difference, but it can be incredibly rewarding.