

Career Profile: Quantity Surveyor

A quantity surveyor controls the financial aspects of a building project. S/he plans and manages the costs of building projects from start to finish. Given the rising costs of building materials and related issues within the building industry, the quantity surveyor assumes increasing importance. The role of the quantity surveyor is to control costs, manage contractual arrangements and prepare contract documents.

The quantity surveyor is a member of a multi-disciplinary team and the main focus of the job is to ensure that the project is kept within agreed budgets and that the interests of the client are safeguarded.

Education Requirements

National Senior Certificate (NSC)

For a career in quantity surveying students are advised to select Mathematics and to add to this a selection from the designated subjects. These are subjects that are particularly suitable for tertiary study.

Bachelor Degree

Bachelor of Science (Quantity Surveying) [BSc (Quantity Surveying)] (3 years)
Bachelor of Science (Quantity Surveying) [BSc (QSS)] 4 years)

Offered at:

- [University of Pretoria](#)¹ (Department of Construction Economics)
- [University of the Witwatersrand](#)² (Construction Economics and Management)

The two universities structure their courses differently.

National Diploma / BTech

The National Diploma is a three year course which includes gaining practical experience under the guidance of a quantity surveyor. The diploma is a pre-requisite for admission to a Bachelor of Technology – Btech degree.

Offered at:

- [Tshwane University of Technology](#) (Faculty of Engineering and the Built Environment)

¹ <http://web.up.ac.za/default.asp?ipkCategoryID=3295&sub=1&parentid=3289&subid=3294&ipklookid=7>

² <http://web.wits.ac.za/Academic/EBE/CEM/Courses/Undergraduate/BScQuant.htm>

- [University of Johannesburg](#)³ (Department of Construction Management and Quantity Surveying)

Specializations offered:

Tshwane University of Technology

National Diploma: Quantity surveying

BTech: Quantity surveying

University of Johannesburg

National Diploma: Building, Quantity surveying

BTech: Quantity surveying

Admission requirements

As admission requirements vary from one institution to another, find out what the specific requirements are by checking on the website and contacting the university if you have any queries.

Possible Employers

- Government
- Private Quantity Surveying practices, for example, [Seseko Quantity Surveyors](#)⁴, [David Langdon Seah International](#)⁵, [deLeeuw Africa Holdings](#)⁶, [Ferrer Hayim \(Pty\) Ltd](#)⁷, [Turner & Townsend](#)⁸, [Pentad Quantity Surveyors](#)⁹, Akha Izwe Quantity Surveyors
- Own practice

Find out more

Find out more about quantity surveying:

- [The Association of South African Quantity Surveyors \(ASAQS\)](#)¹⁰. Overall it seems an extremely useful website. The news section contains some very interesting items that affect quantity surveyors
- [The South African Council for the Quantity Surveying Profession](#).¹¹ It includes detailed tables of registration routes for quantity surveying, construction management and quantity surveying technologist qualifications.

³ <http://www.uj.ac.za/cmqs/StudyInformation/BTech/tabid/2194/Default.aspx>

⁴ <http://ads.asaqs.co.za/links/display.php?LinkID=63>

⁵ <http://ads.asaqs.co.za/links/display.php?LinkID=64>

⁶ <http://ads.asaqs.co.za/links/display.php?LinkID=69>

⁷ <http://ads.asaqs.co.za/links/display.php?LinkID=72>

⁸ <http://ads.asaqs.co.za/links/display.php?LinkID=114>

¹⁰ <http://www.asaqs.co.za/>

Are you suited to this career?

This quick quiz can help you to identify whether you are suited for this occupation

Quiz	Yes	No
Are you a well organized person?		
Are you good at mathematics?		
Can you express yourself clearly and logically?		
Do you enjoy doing numerical calculations?		
Do you enjoy interacting with a wide range of people?		
Are you able to think analytically?		
Do other people consider you to be a responsible person?		
Do you work meticulously and systematically?		
Do you enjoy solving problems?		
Are you prepared to work long hours?		

If you have mainly yes answers it may be an indication that this is an occupation to consider.

¹¹ <http://www.sacqsp.org.za/>