

A guide to surveyor grades and salaries.

Trainee Surveyor – Salary range £10000 to £16000 p.a.

The role of Trainee Surveyor is ideal for a school leaver with “GCSE” and/or “A” levels although a relevant degree would be advantageous. An interest in geography and mathematics is also an advantage. Most companies will provide “on the job training” although some may also employ external training courses such as The Survey Association training course. A willingness and application to learning and training is essential.

A reasonable degree of physical fitness is a prerequisite for most trainee surveyor roles. A willingness to travel and to work outside in adverse weather conditions is essential for this role. Post-holders need to be prepared to work outside normal working hours and have the ability to adapt to varied and different working environments. Trainee Surveyors must be able to take responsibility for their own behaviour and have the ability to follow and adhere to prescribed procedures and standards.

Assistant Surveyor – Salary range - £14000 to £20000 p.a.

The Assistant Land Surveyor will generally support the survey team, consisting of one or a number of surveyors, in the undertaking of surveying tasks both in the field and office environments. Most practitioners will require at least two years practical experience from the Assistant Land Surveyor and he/she must be keen to learn and progress within the profession. He/she should ideally hold or be working towards a recognised surveying or similar qualification. A knowledge of basic surveying principles is essential for this role. It is expected that the Assistant Land Surveyor will undertake ‘on the job training’ in relation to all site survey and office work.

The Assistant Land Surveyor should have a working knowledge of surveying instrumentation and the ability to make and record accurate measurements. Flexibility in working hours, the willingness to travel and to work outside in adverse weather conditions are essential requirements of this role. A clean driving licence is usually required.

Surveyor – Salary range - £16000 to £28000 p.a.

The Surveyor will generally lead a team or teams in both field and office operations. Most practitioners will ideally require at least four years practical experience for this role. A recognised survey qualification and/or professional accreditation is desirable. Many companies will assist in the pursuance of a qualification. A good knowledge and understanding of surveying, theory, principles and instrumentation is required.

The Surveyor should have the ability to plan and execute small to medium sized projects and manage timescales. He/she should have a thorough understanding of the application of Health and safety and QA. The Surveyor must be able to work methodically on his/her own initiative, problem solve and liaise with clients when necessary. He/she should have the ability to communicate with clients and colleagues in a professional manner and brief other members of the survey team. The ability to recognise problems and recognise where these are within their own ability to solve or to refer to more senior staff is essential for this role as is the ability to plan and execute small to medium sized projects involving a number of survey teams. Flexibility in working hours, the willingness to travel and to work outside in adverse weather conditions are all essential requirements of this role. A clean driving licence is usually required.

Senior Surveyor – Salary range - £24000 to £36000 p.a.

Most practitioners will require at least six years practical experience from the Senior Surveyor. He/she must be capable of running a team or number of teams. A professional qualification or being in the process of pursuing one would be a distinct advantage. Many companies will assist in the pursuance of a qualification whilst for others the qualification is essential for the role.

A thorough knowledge and understanding of major survey software is a pre-requisite for this role. A comprehensive knowledge and understanding of surveying, theory, principles and instrumentation is required along with the ability to communicate this to more junior staff. He/she should have the ability to communicate with clients, colleagues and fellow professionals including those from other disciplines. The ability to recognise task and project problems/issues and either solve these or communicate them to more senior staff is essential to this role as is the ability to plan and execute medium to large sized projects and manage timescales. The Senior Surveyor should have a solid understanding of the principles of Health and safety, QA and commercial project delivery. Extensive travel will be required as will job estimating and client liaison. Flexibility in working hours, the willingness to travel and to work outside in adverse weather conditions are essential requirements of this role. A clean driving licence is usually required.

Chief Surveyor/Survey Project Manager – Salary range - £36000 to £50000

Most companies will expect The Chief Surveyor or Head of Department to have a minimum of ten years relevant survey experience and be capable of running a number of survey teams and support staff. A professional qualification will generally be required for this role as will a thorough understanding of business practices.

A good knowledge and understanding of survey software is a pre-requisite for this role. A thorough knowledge and understanding of surveying, theory, principles and instrumentation is required along with the ability to communicate this to survey teams and groups of staff. He/she should have the ability to make presentations to clients, employer organisations and fellow professionals. The ability to plan and execute extensive and complex projects and problem solve is essential for this role as is the ability to manage staff. He/she should have a working knowledge of associated professional disciplines and their requirements. A thorough knowledge and understanding of the principles, practices and implementation of Health and safety, QA along with personnel and financial monitoring is also essential for this role. Travel may be required for this role although most of the work will be office based and will include job estimating, mentoring, training and client liaison.

Please note:

The above salary figures are generally dependent on location and are based on the biennial salary survey carried out by The Survey Association.

The role and duties will vary from company to company and the descriptions should be viewed as a guide only.