

RICS MATRICS YOUNG SURVEYOR OF THE YEAR 2022 FINALISTS

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What was your role and background before becoming a surveyor?

I was a secondary english teacher, but my personal life lead me into the world of surveying and construction. After my partner and I built our own house and started a small property portfolio, my head was turned! I left education and worked in estate agency to get some practical, 'on the ground' experience before deciding residential surveying was the route I wanted to take.

What made you consider a career in residential surveying?

I've always been a lover of history and stories and for me, every property has its own story to tell. Residential surveys require you to put properties under a microscope as 'part doctor, part detective' and understand their history and condition, which will inform their future. Providing people with this information, I feel, is vital in helping them understand and manage their home over time. I also knew long-term, my now husband and I, would go into business together and our surveying specialisms would complement one another in our business model.

What was it in particular that drew you to Sava and the Diploma in Residential Surveying and Valuation?

“ After I determined which path I wanted to take, I then needed a course to educate me and help me qualify. Having worked in education, I automatically looked at the formal higher education route as well as a bit of googling. Luckily, I already knew some experienced surveyors and it was they who suggested Sava – highlighting the vocational aspects, the ability to learn part-time, and of course, the accreditation with RICS. ”

Would you recommend the Diploma in Residential Surveying and Valuation to others looking to pursue a new career?

Yes, I would – providing they understand it is what you make it. Sava provide you with a wealth of information and expertise. They recommend before you start the course that you find a mentor and/or work experience. The theoretical knowledge from the course in conjunction with the work experience I gained were invaluable in being able to hit the ground running once I'd qualified.

What would you say has been the highlight of your journey so far?

Completing the course in the chaos of Covid and achieving AssocRICS status. The doors that those post nominals can open for you is unparalleled along with the sense of achievement that you feel.

Did you work while completing the diploma? If yes, please tell us how you found managing both work and completing the diploma.

Yes, I was fortunate enough to find a trainee surveyor/administrative role in a small, independent surveying practice before starting the course. I purposefully looked for this as I believed it would enhance my studies. The practice was a considerable commute from home and learning the theoretical knowledge for the course alongside working full-time

and running a house was challenging to say the least! But I knew I was giving myself every opportunity to complete the course and be in a position to be employable after qualifying.

If you could give one piece of advice to learners who go through the process, what would it be?

Do your research! Make sure you understand what a residential surveyor does and the career opportunities post-qualification. If you are working alongside studying, you will need great time management, perseverance and patience to succeed.

How does it feel to be a finalist in the RICS Young Surveyor of the Year Awards 2022?

I'm over the moon! To think I've qualified as a surveyor, achieved AssocRICS and now shortlisted for RICS YSOTY in the space of a year is beyond anything I could have imagined. I think it's also important to note I've been chipping away at getting to this point for ten years. I'm so pleased with being shortlisted and feel it's given me a real confidence boost to go out and do the best job I can and positively represent the profession!

A great work ethic must be an important factor in your career, what or who inspires and motivates you to be the best you can be?

I have had a good work ethic from an early age. I think a little of this comes from being a northerner – we're made of tough stuff where it's always wet and cold! It also comes from your support system – family, friends and those around you who are rooting for you. Special thanks to my husband, particularly, who sees what I'm capable of before I see it myself. But ultimately, you have to inspire and motivate you to achieve what it is you want. You can't look to anyone else for validation, you have to find it for yourself!