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# Nadia Lam

**Graduate Cost Planner, Lendlease**

## **Career Pathway**

2014–2017: Bachelor Construction Project Management, UTS

2015: Cadet Quantity Surveyor, Newton Fisher & Associates

2016: Cadet Cost Planner, Mirvac Constructions

2017: Graduate Cost Planner, Lendlease



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# Nadia Lam

## **What do you enjoy most about being a Quantity Surveyor?**

What I enjoy most is being at the center of a project. Dealing with the costs of a project requires interaction with almost every member of a project team which has given me the opportunity to meet a large range of people in various roles.

Being a Quantity Surveyor also gives you an in-depth insight into every aspect of the building including but not limited to design, constructability and programme etc.

## **What makes Quantity Surveying a rewarding career?**

I find that Quantity Surveying is rewarding as you are a part of a team that builds the buildings that people are proud to work, live or even shop in. You're not just providing "sticks and bricks" but creating communities and workplaces where people spend most of their days. Being on legacy jobs is extremely rewarding for example the new Metro Stations in Sydney which is a massive contribution into the way Sydney operates on a daily basis.

## **What does an average day/week as a Quantity Surveying look like to you?**

I think anyone in the construction industry can appreciate that there are no typical days! Generally, I would be measuring/costing to assist in developing and analysing costs for feasibility, value engineering and construction purposes. I'm lucky enough to be working closely with the project teams to understand the construction details that go into the budget.



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## Brad Bell MAIQS

**Senior Quantity Surveyor, Rider  
Levett Bucknall (RLB)**

### **Career Pathway**

2009–2013: Bachelor Urban Development (Quantity Surveying), QUT

2010: Cadet Quantity Surveyor, RLB

2012: Quantity Surveyor, RLB

2018: Senior Quantity Surveyor, RLB

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# Brad Bell MAIQS



## Why Quantity Surveying?

When I entered my 2nd year of university I knew Quantity Surveying was the place for me. Having started my 1st year of university majoring in Construction Management, I changed over to Quantity Surveying at the start of my 2nd year, applied and got accepted for a cadetship with RLB within 24hrs, and since then I haven't looked back!

## What is the most exciting job you have worked on?

Queens Wharf Brisbane

- New Casino, Hotels, Residential, Commercial, Retail and Public Realm Precinct
- 50 new Bars, Restaurants and Cafes
- 12 Football Fields of Public Space.

## What excites you about the industry?

The computer programs Quantity Surveyors utilise are moving into overdrive with faster and more accurate tools being brought onto the market. There are also new forms of building plant and equipment entering the industry which is creating improved efficiencies, and reducing the construction costs in various trades.

## What advice would you give to someone who is considering QS as a career?

If you have an interest in the building / construction industry and enjoy maths, then I think QS could worth a look! It's a niche industry, good QS's are in hot demand nationally and internationally!



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# Matthew Siegert

**Quantity Surveyor, Rider Levett  
Bucknall (RLB)**

## **Career Pathway**

2014-2017: Bachelor of Building and Construction Management,  
University of Canberra

2015: Cadet Estimator, Manteena

2017: Cadet Quantity Surveyor, RLB

2018: Quantity Surveyor, RLB



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# Matthew Siegert

## **Why Quantity Surveying?**

It was after I had completed my Year 12 HSC and I was having a serious think about what I would like to do with my life and where I wanted to go (to live, university, etc.). After a conversation with my father and grandfather I figured out that I would like to explore the financial side of the construction/property industry and they suggested I look at Quantity Surveying.

## **What is the most exciting job you have worked on?**

Out of the many challenging and exciting jobs I have worked on, the pick of the bunch would have to be the renovation of the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (Africa Hall) in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. It is still astonishing to me that I can work from a desk in Canberra on a job literally on the other side of the world that will have such a positive impact on that region.

## **What advice would you give to someone who is considering Quantity Surveying as a career?**

I could not recommend more highly getting out into the industry as early as you can, whether this be through approaching a Quantity Surveyor firm for work experience for a short period of time or just getting out onto a building site in general to get a feel for what this industry is and if you will like it.

I would also recommend trying to contact a Quantity Surveyor to have a discussion with them about their role. I have found that most Quantity Surveyors are more than happy to spend a bit of their time to help you out if you need it.



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## Crystal Liew AIQS (Affil.)

**Quantity Surveyor, Donald Cant  
Watts Corke (DCWC)**

2013–2016: Bachelor Urban Development (Quantity Surveying), QUT

2013: Quantity Surveyor Intern, Langdon & Seah (Malaysia)

2014: Cadet Quantity Surveyor, Mitchell Brandtman

2015: Cadet Quantity Surveyor, DCWC

2016: Quantity Surveyor, DCWC

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# Crystal Liew AIQS (Affil.)



## **What does an average day/week as a Quantity Surveyor look like to you?**

My average day includes preparing cost plans/bill or quantities, assessing progress claims and variations and attending project meetings. I communicate with various stakeholders (contractors, clients, suppliers, etc) on the phone, and go out for site visits. Everyday you get to meet different people and face new challenges. Every project you work on will be different. That's what makes the job exciting.

## **What advice would you give to someone who is considering Quantity Surveying as a career?**

A lot of people think that Quantity Surveying is related just to maths. I am going to say this is a big misconception. Yes, there are a lot of measuring tasks, but it's so much more. We talk to lots of different people and continually deal with different needs. I think you have to be passionate about your job; being intrigued by how things work and how they are built. Having an interest in the building industry is really important. Do get a lot of hands-on experience when you are studying too, it really helps in doing your assignments and studies.

## **What is the most exciting job you have worked on?**

It would be the Thomas Dixon Centre, a refurbishment of a heritage listed building. The exciting part is to preserve the heritage building while having an extension built alongside. The new extension has different departments to cater for the user needs. The design team has been working closely with Queensland Ballet to create a new space for them which is fully utilised. In meetings we would sit down and consider what the dancers really need, how would they use the space, how to implement the sustainability component, what option is working or what is not.