

Career Profile: Building Surveyor

Name: Catharine Bull

What first led to you considering a career in building conservation?

Working at Southwark Council, my team was responsible for maintenance and repair of Council's building portfolio which included several listed and historic buildings. I undertook several projects on these buildings and realised this is the sector I would like to work in and applied for SPAB Scholarship

What initial qualifications did you gain before starting your career?

A levels and BSc in Geography

Did you then undertake further qualifications?

BSc in Building Surveying
Became MRICS
SPAB Scholarship

What was your first paid role?

In building surveying career: Lambeth Council as Short life housing officer then Maintenance Officer for Housing Association

In building conversation: PT Building Surveyor for Purcell Miller Tritton and PT Building Surveyor with The National Trust

What advice would you give to someone who perhaps does not have the means to pursue a postgraduate qualification but wants to enter the heritage field in some capacity?

In building surveying there are lots of opportunities for people with an interest in historic buildings once they have gained experience/knowledge in building construction & surveying practices. So for my profession, get qualified and then find out about, get involved in historic buildings, and make connections, perhaps with smaller practices once conversant in working practices.

What was the most useful piece of advice you were given when starting on your career path?

Go for it!