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FUTURE LEADERS

There are more than 17,000 trainee chartered surveyors worldwide, and more than twice as many students. That's the good news. The bad news is that RICS has recently seen a decline in the number of new trainees – so what does the future hold? **DUNCAN JOHNSON** asked the next generation of property professionals

ILLUSTRATIONS: PADDY MILLS

ON EDUCATION

Concerns are growing that fewer graduates are looking to careers in the property industry, so we asked those closest to the current standards what they thought. What more can be done to promote surveying as a career to future school leavers?

As an industry we should be always looking to continually improve and challenge the status quo and I think that as individuals, young professionals especially, we should be telling our peer group about the opportunities the industry has to offer. We should inspire those around us by showing our passion and commitment.

The larger consultancies are raising the profile – now employers and institutions need to cajole employees and members into taking a greater role in the promotion of our industry.
Andy Oddie, Hill International

We need to promote the fact that surveying is not a desk job. Surveying provides an opportunity to visit sites, interact with a range of other professionals and be involved with a variety of projects all over the world.

Alan Benningfield, Atkins

The profession needs to start targeting school leavers from all backgrounds. It seems that unless you have family or friends in the profession it is unlikely that you will even be aware of a potential career in surveying.

Chris Caiulo, SEGRO

The benefits of studying surveying degrees, such as job opportunities, needs to be better communicated. For example I don't know anyone from my building surveying degree that hasn't got a surveying job since leaving university. The problem is the perception that

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it's specific, whereas in reality it's quite broad with many different construction career options after graduation.

Douglas Cochrane, Gleeds

On leaving school, I did not even consider property as a potential career due to a lack of understanding of the commercial real estate industry and exposure to it.

I think that chartered surveying should be more heavily promoted alongside other professional chartered career paths.

Richard Dawes, DTZ

My background is in economics and whilst my degree has given me a firm foundation in many of the skills required of a project manager or surveyor, my university did not advocate construction as a potential career path. I was however, fortunate enough to have friends within

construction and they helped me identify project management as a promising and varied career.

Nicholas Paterson, Faithful+Gould

RICS should try to work with more firms to offer work experience placements which, in my opinion, is one of the best ways to engage students.

Awareness should also be increased to parents surrounding common misconceptions about the industry. In particular, that surveying is not limited and covers every aspect of the built environment from planning infrastructure to valuing buildings for investment; surveying is not just a male industry; a career in surveying creates an opportunity to shape the future of the global built environment.

Jenna Kitchingham, Majid Al Futtaim

Promotion of the construction industry has recently been done by the UK Government to school leavers, but not so much by the industry itself. It would be of benefit to attract good non-cognates.

It's a great industry to work in as it is very diverse compared to some other professions, this just needs to be better communicated.

David Ellis, Gleeds

WHAT RICS IS DOING

RICS actively promotes surveying careers at a regional level with hundreds of visits to schools, colleges and universities each year. RICS members also get involved, attending careers fairs and school/university careers events to offer first hand insight into the surveying profession.

Students can obtain careers advice from **www.ricsrecruit.com** as well as browse placement opportunities and jobs within the industry. Media partnerships with national newspapers such as *The Independent* showcase the diversity of the profession and promote RICS membership through careers focused supplements.

RICS is now looking to work more closely with universities and employers to support student members. This year will see the launch of a new dedicated student zone on **www.rics.org** which will offer a host of useful resources, including information on all the surveying specialisms, real life case studies showcasing the benefits and diversity of the profession, online forums, blogs and interactive resources.