

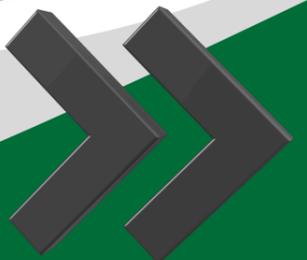
EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT

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CERY'S PORTER

Assistant Quantity Surveyor



MURFORM





Can you tell us a bit about your role as a trainee Quantity Surveyor?

A typical day starts with prioritizing my inbox and setting up my to-do list for the week. Once the quick tasks are ticked off and I've checked in with our foremen, I dive into the core work which could be completing applications, a remeasure for a project, or a take-off and build-up for a quote. I always make a point to step away from my screen at lunch; coming back with fresh eyes really helps my focus for the afternoon. Throughout the day, calls and messages from the foremen or my manager keep things dynamic and break up the screen time!

What made you choose an apprenticeship route into Quantity Surveying?



I have always found the values of an apprenticeship much more appealing than a standard degree because it offers real-world experience and knowledge. I personally learn much faster hands-on, so this route was an ideal fit for my learning style.



What has been the most valuable thing you've learned since starting your apprenticeship?

The most valuable thing I have learned is that communication is key to everything. A project goes so much smoother when communication between all parties is clear, consistent, and transparent.

What do you enjoy most about working in Quantity Surveying so far?



I love how different every project is, even if they look identical on paper. Every job has its own rhythm, and often the ones that look 'easy' at first glance bring the most unexpected challenges and learning opportunities. I've also really enjoyed meeting and collaborating with people from so many different cultural and professional backgrounds, there is always useful knowledge to share.



How do you balance work, learning, and any college or study commitments?

Apprenticeships are a juggling act and finding that balance took some time. However, with the right support from Murform, the university, and the people close to me, I make it work. I've had to learn how to heavily prioritize different aspects of my life to maintain a healthy balance making sure I dedicate time to work and study, while still keeping up a social life to recharge.

What skills do you feel you've developed the most during your apprenticeship?



I've developed a broad range of skills. I've improved my ability to communicate confidently with clients and operatives. On the technical side, I've sharpened my numerical skills for take-offs and remeasures, as well as analytical skills, which are crucial for tracking site progress or understanding how a delay impacts the wider project.



Has there been a project, task, or moment that's really boosted your confidence?

My biggest confidence boost came when I realised just how far my knowledge has come. As an apprentice, you often feel like you know very little, but when you take a step back and compare yourself to where you were a year ago, the growth is massive. It's one thing to learn a topic during your course, but it's an incredible feeling when you realise you are automatically putting that theory into practice on site.

What support have you received from your team or company during your apprenticeship?



Murform has been incredibly supportive in helping me build a career in construction. They patiently answer every question I throw at them and always explain the 'why' behind the answers. They've also given me exposure to a massive variety of sites from railway bridges and substations to windfarms and energy-from-waste projects. This variety has helped me understand which areas appeal to me most and how to navigate the unique challenges of different builds. Furthermore, they are incredibly supportive of my university work, always offering help with difficult topics or providing flexibility when I have coursework deadlines.



What advice would you give to someone thinking about starting an apprenticeship in construction or Quantity Surveying?



Starting out can be daunting, but everyone starts somewhere! Being an apprentice is the perfect opportunity to soak up expertise from the people around you, regardless of their job title. In Quantity Surveying you get to touch so many different projects, residential, commercial, civil, so you can really find what interests you. No two days are the same. And don't worry, having 'apprentice' in your title gives you a great excuse to ask all the questions you might otherwise be afraid to ask. If you don't ask, you won't know!

At Murform, we're proud to be a leading specialist in reinforced concrete formwork, groundworks, civil engineering and structural solutions across the UK and Ireland.

Supporting apprentices like Cerys is central to our mission, and we believe in developing the next generation of skilled construction professionals while delivering excellence on every project.

