



Fraser at PCC

Who is Fraser?

Fraser is currently undertaking a Building Surveying Apprenticeship at Portsmouth City Council.

Fraser's apprenticeship

I am on a 5-year building surveying apprenticeship, with the end-goal of becoming a chartered Building Surveyor. It is a degree apprenticeship, so I have one day for my studies per week. You start within the repairs team at Portsmouth City Council, then move to the projects team. You start with small tasks, for example fire risk assessments, and then move on to bigger projects relating to the council.

I am currently in year 2 of 5. We have our own sort of levelling system; the chartered surveyor apprenticeship is based on an Assessment of Professional Competence. We have to simulate that with our own increments. We have a meeting where you are hammered with questions and asked to produce a portfolio, this is all to prep you for the final interview.

Soft skills Fraser has developed

I have definitely further developed my communications skills. Sometimes, when talking to the residents you use technical terms that they don't understand, so you need to work out how to explain it in the best way possible, which I feel I have got much better at.

Working professionally in a team is also a skill I have developed as I work with two other apprentices in their second year.

Recruitment process

The process of applying is broken down into 4 stages: you have the initial application, then the presentation you have to do in front of the team, then your assessment day and then an interview. During the assessment day, you have to work with other candidates. You will be set a task relating to building surveying, and they monitored how observant we were. We then had to work in a team to complete a task together. We have done similar projects to this in my work now, so it was useful.

Hopes for the future

My goals are firstly to finish the university course as part of my apprenticeship, then do the chartership interview and get my chartership. They are two massive goals. I'm not sure what I will do after but would happily take a job here at Portsmouth City Council.