

# Fact Sheet

## Surveying Careers



### **WHAT IS A SURVEYOR?**

Surveyors are experts in measuring the environment to a high level of accuracy and precision, and presenting that information in a variety of formats from traditional maps to complex 3D computer models. The technology and computational analysis are underpinned by mathematics.

### **WHAT DO SURVEYORS DO?**

Surveyors play a critical role in facilitating land development and infrastructure growth. Before a school can be built a surveyor establishes the current site conditions and defines the site boundary. Before a road can be constructed, a surveyor provides the boundaries of the construction. Before the challenges of rebuilding after an earthquake or a flood or a bushfire, a surveyor will determine the limits of the Cadastre.

### **WHO DO THEY WORK WITH?**

Surveyors work with engineers, architects and developers throughout the completion of projects by monitoring the construction to ensure they are laid out and built to exact measurements. Surveyors also liaise with land-owners, service authorities and Government bodies.

### **WHAT IS A LICENSED SURVEYOR?**

A Licensed Surveyor is the only one that can legally define title boundaries required for the transfer of land titles and to settle disputes over land tenure.

### **WHAT IS THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN SPATIAL SCIENCE AND SURVEYING?**

Surveying is related to the broad areas of Spatial Science or Geospatial Science. Spatial means “the relative place or location of something.” Spatial Science helps to understand the relationship between the community and the environment to help predict trends and patterns. Surveying is first done to establish the boundaries, and Spatial Technologies are used to interpret and report on the data.

### **ARE THERE MANY SURVEYING JOBS ON OFFER?**

Currently there is a shortage of surveyors especially in VIC and surveying offers significant opportunities for young people looking for a diverse and varied career. As McCrindle research found in 2013, surveying is the most under-rated degree because the national demand for new Surveyors means graduates are more likely to secure jobs in surveying compared with many other professions with an average of 90% of graduates in full-time employment.

Often Graduates work in either the private or public sector on urban development or construction projects. But there are also plenty of opportunities for work for those who prefer the regional or country lifestyle. As skills and experience develop, many Surveyors are keen to progress to running their own businesses.

### **IS THERE AN OPPORTUNITY TO TRAVEL FOR WORK?**

Surveying allows you to work in interesting places. Some graduates travel the world doing seismic surveys, oil exploration, hydrographical (waterways) surveys or working offshore with drilling rigs and rural town planning.

### **WHAT KIND OF SALARY CAN I EXPECT AS A SURVEYOR?**

Salaries are excellent and will continue to grow as the industry seeks to employ new talent. Graduate Surveyors can start on an average of \$55k-\$60k p.a. depending on where they work and the type of work they are involved in. Outback and offshore work pays considerably more. Surveyors in managerial roles can earn packages around \$150k-\$200k per year.

### **WHAT TYPES OF STUDENTS WOULD MOST SUIT A CAREER IN SURVEYING?**

Students interested in Maths, Geography, Physics, Engineering, IT and Science would be ideal candidates for a career in Surveying.

### **ARE THERE OPPORTUNITIES FOR FEMALES IN SURVEYING?**

Absolutely. Surveying used to be a “blokes job”, but advances in technology over the past decade have changed the state of play. Instruments are a lot sleeker and lighter, and some are even controlled remotely with an iPad.

Plus, there is a lot more to Surveying than taking measurements outdoors using the latest technology. Surveyors are experts in property law and the creation of land titles. They advise developers, lawyers and architects on how they can maximise the outcome of land development projects.

### **WHY HAVEN'T I HEARD MUCH ABOUT SURVEYING BEFORE?**

The Surveying profession is relatively small with ~567 Licensed Surveyors across VIC. And they don't get much media attention; they could be considered as the “quiet achievers” of the property profession. The profession is now aiming to create a greater awareness of surveying to help meet the significant demand for new surveyors in the future.

### **HOW DO I BECOME A SURVEYOR?**

Full time study options include RMIT VET, RMIT University (guide ATAR 75) and Uni of Melbourne (guide ATAR 85). University studies require Units 3 and 4 in Maths Methods or Specialist Maths. Opportunities exist for eligible students to transfer from TAFE into University studies. Part-time and distance pathways are also available via TAFE VIC and Uni of Southern Qld.

### **WHAT CAREER SUPPORT IS AVAILABLE?**

The Surveying Taskforce liaises with the Surveying profession to facilitate secondary student work experience placements. The Taskforce also organises volunteer Ambassadors to participate in career events or presentations. Students and Career Advisors can register their interest at the website. Support is dependent on the availability and capacity of local volunteers.

### **WHERE CAN I GET MORE INFORMATION?**

Website: [www.alifewithoutlimits.com.au](http://www.alifewithoutlimits.com.au) Facebook: Try Surveying  
Phone: (03) 9326 8173 Email: [trysurveying@alifewithoutlimits.com.au](mailto:trysurveying@alifewithoutlimits.com.au)