Real Estate and Planning

Most Graduates of Real Estate and Planning will work as surveyors throughout the public and private sectors of the economy, working in commercial, residential or rural settings managing, purchasing, selling, or leasing land. Some may work within the Property and Construction sector, whereas others will be found in the Environment and Agricultural sector, as Planners working within government, consultancy and private organisations including construction, utilities, transport and retail.

You would most likely be part of a team working together with other professionals on a development project, in a planning department of a local government dealing with an aspect of their responsibilities for example The Local Plan, Development Control or Conservation, or in Central Government (Departments of Environment Food and Rural Affairs, the Environment Agency, and the Planning Inspectorate). Opportunities also exist to work with Professional Agents, (Estate, Land and Property Surveyors) and in Estate Management. Others might work as lecturers or researchers in the Higher Education sector, or for Professional Organisations. The Finance Sector has many opportunities that are highly relevant for those who decide not to complete training to be a surveyor. The Legal sector offers opportunities for both Solicitors and Barristers to practise Planning Law (after following professional postgraduate legal training).

Roles

Each job title links through to a broad job description, salary and conditions, entry requirements, typical recruiters and links to further pre-assessed useful information.
- Chartered Surveyor
- Property Developer/Surveyor
- Rural Practice Surveyor
- Town Planners
- Chartered Accountant
- Corporate Investment Banker
- Solicitor
- Barrister
- Bar Council Guide to Becoming a Barrister
- Higher Education Lecturer

Finding Opportunities

For researching further professional postgraduate training courses the Prospects website is a comprehensive source of information. For Postgraduate Conversion to Law Courses (Graduate Diploma in Law, GDL) see Prospects page on Law Conversion Courses.

As with most occupations work experience, internships, voluntary work and work shadowing can help enormously in helping you to decide not only on the work area that suits you, but also in finding employment. The web links below to will provide details of some opportunities. Many opportunities aren’t advertised so networking through contacts, department’s alumni/ae, Societies and direct approaches to potential employers may also be profitable. Don't neglect the possibility of approaching small organisations and companies local to your home area with a suitably composed covering letter. Using your local media may also be useful as advertising nationally can be expensive for employers. See the Careers Centre’s information on Placements and other experience, which has advice on how to go about this activity, and links to many useful vacancy sites.

Access this page and more options at reading.ac.uk/careers/resources

EXPLORE career options with your subject
Another very useful source is the comprehensive Target Property Sector (website and printed guide) which includes a section on Internships. The RICS Careers Guide referred to as above, has many links to potential employers. The Institute also has a recruitment site.

Recruitment sites, including agencies, include the following:

- PropertyJobs
- Property Week's Jobs site
- Prospects - generic jobs site for graduates
- Hays - leading recruitment agency
- Jobs.ac.uk - for HE lecturing jobs
- Civil Service recruitment website
- JobsGoPublic - generic public service jobs and vacancies

Further Reading

- Target Jobs: Property
- The Royal Institute of Chartered Surveyors
- The Royal Town Planning Institute
- Planning Resource - a site containing much topical information.
- Property Week - a weekly magazine on the Property World
- Estates Gazette - contains news on the Property market
- Macdonald and Company - a recruitment site that illustrates professional opportunities after experience.