

RICS MATRICS YOUNG SURVEYOR OF THE YEAR 2022 FINALISTS



Lee Dowdall AssocRICS

Residential Surveyor,
Home Surveying



What was your role and background before joining the course?

I was in the Armed Forces, more specifically the Corps of Royal Engineers from Jan 2008, until Feb 2021.

What made you consider a career in residential surveying?

I needed a change in direction and have always been interested in property. Initially, I was looking into property development but then saw an advert for the Sava Level 6 Diploma in Residential Surveying. Matt Bailey sent me a link to their YouTube channel, and after watching a few of the videos, I knew Surveying was for me.

What was it in particular that drew you to the Sava Diploma in Residential Surveying and Valuation?

The fact that I could study around working. I had a house and a family, and I couldn't afford a drop in pay. It was great doing the course alongside my career in the Army.

Would you recommend the Diploma in Residential Surveying and Valuation to others looking to pursue a new career?

I would definitely recommend it and have already done so to a number of people already who have since embarked on the course. I thought it was fantastic.

What would you say has been the highlight of your journey so far?

The best moment was being offered my first job. I felt like I had achieved something so incredible. Looking back, I would have never thought I would be capable to enter a profession such as this. My proudest moment is being told that I'm a finalist for the RICS YSOTY Award 2022.

Did you work while completing the diploma? If yes, please tell us how you found managing both work and completing the qualification.

I was extremely fortunate to have obtained a posting to a training regiment in the Army where I am unable to deploy on large-scale exercises and operations during that time. My previous line manager was very pro-self-development and was very accommodating. It was tough, as my role there was very demanding, but I was very motivated to complete the course so managed to find the right balance.

If you could give one piece of advice to learners who go through the process, what would it be?

All you need is determination. You need to keep moving forward. The resources, guidance, and support, both from Sava and the rest of the industry is readily available. The only obstacle is yourself. If you can keep moving forward, you will fly through the course.

A great work ethic must be an important factor in your career, what or who inspires and motivates you to be the best you can be?

I don't think there's any greater honour than to have ordinary hard-working people relying on you for your professional advice before they make the largest purchase they might ever make in their life. I've always felt like everything is stacked against the buyer, and it's only the Surveyor who has their best interests in mind when carrying out their duty. Nothing is more rewarding than receiving thanks from a client.

How does it feel to be a finalist in the RICS Young Surveyor of the Year Awards 2022?

Amazing. I remember when I was still on the Sava course, and I would see all the people nominated for such awards on LinkedIn. I used to sit and wonder what you must have to do to be nominated for an award like that and remember thinking that would never be me. Fast forward 18 months after I completed, and I was told I had been nominated. When I was told I'd made the finalist, I was over the moon.

Do you know someone who would make a great surveyor?

We would like to reward you for your recommendation

Sava Referral Scheme

If you refer someone who goes on to undertake our Diploma in Residential Surveying and Valuation, we will send you £500 (for existing learners) or £250 (for any new referral) as a thank you.

All they need to do is mention your name when they contact us on 01908 442158 or email us at hello@sava.co.uk