

CASE STUDY:

Rebecca Brydon AssocRICS

Gold Crest Chartered Surveyors

Residential Surveyor

Diploma in Residential Surveying and Valuation graduate



Rebecca Brydon is a Sava graduate who joined the Diploma in Residential Surveying and Valuation as an estate agent. Now a qualified Residential Surveyor, Rebecca has been given the opportunity by her current employer, who is supporting her through further study and training, to specialise in historic, listed and specialist buildings.

What made you consider a career in residential surveying?

I enjoyed working in property but hated being an agent and didn't enjoy the emotional rollercoaster of it - or the sales calls. I wanted a career that was more professional and respected. I have a history of building/electrician/plumbing in my family, and it felt like it was my calling in life to be a surveyor. I initially thought I would want to do primarily valuation work, but once I got into the Sava course, I realised that I loved building pathology much more and now valuation is the least favourite part of my job.

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

I already have a degree, so I looked at doing a Master's route to MRICS. However, none of the post-grad degree courses were close by and wouldn't have fitted easily with family life, I would have had to give up work for a year or more to do them, and none seemed to be specifically focused on residential surveying, meaning further training would be needed once qualified. Sava was therefore the best option for me as we had the money (well borrowed it) to do it, I could still work and manage the family while I was doing it, and Milton Keynes was only 45 minutes away from me. I was a little perturbed that it would only be AssocRICS rather than MRICS but decided that there were actually less barriers to employment and training at the end with the Sava course due to its specialist residential focus.

Would you recommend the Diploma in Residential Surveying and Valuation to others looking to pursue a new career? (If so, why?)

Yes! It has been the best thing I have ever done. Great course content, perfectly targeted for the job role after the course, excellent lecturers and easy to understand and progress through at your own pace.

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

I enjoyed the course content and I love the job! I now have a great job, that I enjoy every day and after not quite a year, I already earn nearly THREE times the

salary I was on as an estate agent. Although it is hardwork and long hours, the job also has a degree of flexibility that fits in with family life and this is great.

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

I worked part-time to start with (3 days a week) which was the plan for the duration. However, the pandemic hit our family hard as my husband works in catering, so I had to go back to work full-time as an estate agent for 10 months of the course. Once I was 25% through the assessment stage, however, I was offered a job if I could complete it within 6 months, so I gave up work completely at this point and studied full time for 4/5 months to get completed, which I achieved. I don't believe I would have managed the diploma in the timescale given if I had continued working full time with a family too. I would have needed extra time for the assessment stage. I have enormous admiration for current colleagues that I know who have managed this.

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

I think this is hard as everyone learns differently and has different life circumstances. Our cohort had a great WhatsApp group that was incredibly supportive and helped everyone get through. I think it would be hard without this, as sometimes there are just things that you are not sure of. So I think having a social media group for your cohort is key.

I would suggest taking each task at a time and work through it at your own pace. The hardest part for me (and I think for many people) is finding the properties for the case studies. Luckily I had some family to help me out and a couple of friends with rental properties, but this is difficult because the properties have to be different e.g 19th century, between the wars, flats etc. some are hard to come by if your friends and relatives all live in new builds!

Do you have any plans now you have qualified?

I am currently employed as a residential surveyor and have just been given the opportunity with my current company, who are supporting me through further study and training to specifically specialise in historic, listed and specialist buildings, which I hope to complete in the next six months. Once I have been in the job for a couple of years (so perhaps this time next year), I hope to do APC to become MRICS, which should be slightly easier for me than for some because I already have a degree.