APPRENTICESHIPS UNDERGRADUATE PLACEMENTS & GRADUATE EMPLOYMENT 2024



Michael Dyson associates Itd

hello







welcome









Thank you for your interest in placement or graduate employment opportunities at Michael Dyson Associates Ltd.

I have been the Managing Director of the company since 1994 and during this time we have grown and diversified considerably.



Our business is rooted in the long-standing relationships we have created, and continue to create, across the whole of the Housing Sector. Our staff are the key to our success; we are all passionate about the values we hold and the work we undertake.

The student placement process has proven to be a great success story for us and the various talented individuals we have placed. Over the years we have seen a high number of students go on to successfully complete their degrees, return to us in graduate roles and progress their careers within the Company.

I am justifiably proud of what we have achieved in the last forty three years, and of the placement students and graduates we have successfully supported and developed as they started their career journeys with us.



Alistair M Dyson Managing Director



About Us

Michael Dyson Associates Ltd is a long established multi-disciplinary construction consultancy providing a comprehensive range of professional services to the housing sector.

Our success comes from our people and their talent, drive and excellence in their field of professionalism. As a family run company creating a team environment where people flourish in their chosen career path is of prime importance to us whether they are at the start or part way through their career journey.

In wishing to set ourselves apart from other service providers we have developed a culture of commercial transparency, innovation and excellence; we collaborate closely with our clients to ensure our service aligns with their expectations to enhance their business activities.

We are corporate members of the RICS, CIOB and APS, a RIBA chartered architectural practice and hold a Gold Level Affiliate Group Body Corporate status with CIAT. Our business processes are aligned with our externally certified ISO 9001:2015 and ISO 14001:2015 compliant Integrated Management System. Our clients can rightfully expect the highest level of consistent service from our team of committed and experienced professionals.

Find out more about us at www.mdyson.co.uk

Training & Support

Gour strength comes from our people, their knowledge and experience.



MDA has provided me with invaluable experience and guidance in every aspect of my role as a Building Surveyor. By providing me with the knowledge and hands-on experience, my placement year was key to excelling in my final year of University.

The practical experience along with the technical development has increased my confidence and knowledge in the workplace and alowed me to pursue my goal to become an RICS chartered surveyor.

Finlay Byrne, Graduate Surveyor



WIDE RANGE OF PAYMENT OF CPD SESSIONS TO PROFESSIONAL SUPPORT YOUR SUBSCRIPTION FEES LEARNING



COMPANY FUNDED SOCIAL EVENTS OPPORTUNITY FOR SPONSORSHIP IN FINAL YEAR & GRADUATE EMPLOYMENT

THEREAFTER



RELOCATION ALLOWANCE



RICS, CIOB, RIBA & CIAT ACCREDITED TRAINING&SUPPORT

Undergraduate Placements

We are seeking enthusiastic, motivated and capable individuals with a determination to progress a career in the construction industry.

Placement opportunities are available to career driven students looking for a year in the industry as part of their sandwich degree course. Based at our Head Office in Huddersfield the placements offer real 'on the job' learning experience, training and development along with support and guidance for those seeking Institute Chartership.

We are interested in students currently studying:

- Building Surveying
- Project Management
- Construction Management
- Quantity Surveying
- Architectural Technology
- Architecture

In return for your hard work, we offer the package benefits shown left.

James Hayward Assistant Quantity Surveyor



What Degree Course are you studying?

Quantity Surveying at Sheffield Hallam University

What did your role involve?

The undergraduate surveyor's role in the Contract Administration Team includes a wide variety of roles and responsibilities. I began by shadowing my mentor, getting to grips with the 'ins and outs' of MDA and within weeks I was out on site on my own and making decisions on behalf of the company. As a quantity surveyor I have been involved in assessing valuations on site and preparing payment notices, completing cost reports, assisting in preparing tender documents, completing cost plans and producing handover documentation. Alongside this, I experienced the role of a project manager including performing site inspections, where I monitored progress and liaised with the client team and construction team. I performed quality control inspections (snagging) on new build houses which improved my attention to detail. I also sat in high profile meetings and met with clients myself, having been given responsibility for organising end of defects inspections and preparing crucial documentation for clients.

How did you find it?

I am incredibly thankful to MDA for providing me with a placement that gave me the opportunity to learn and grow in every aspect of construction. I was faced with challenges that required me to take responsibilities I have never undertaken before and granted me with the experience and knowledge to excel in my final year of university. MDA provided excellent training to make sure I was in a comfortable position to take on responsibilities within the company which will set me up on a path with RICS for chartership. I have enjoyed every moment at MDA, working with the team and the people around me.

What skills, training and knowledge did you experience?

I experienced a wide variety of skills that were needed in the work place such as time management and co-ordination of my workload. I learned to organise my work in an efficient manner and find more effective methods of executing my work in a quality-controlled process. I have received a wide variety of training relating to project management which will not only aid me in my career but also help me undertake my final year.

How would you summarise my placement experience with MDA?

The knowledge and experience I gained from working with MDA for over a year has been priceless and it isn't something I can learn in a classroom. The Contract Administration Team are always happy to help, very friendly and the best bunch of people I have worked with. I recommend MDA to anyone who wants to prove themselves, eager to perform tasks / take responsibility outside of their comfort zone and get a head start on everyone else in the construction industry.

Emma Ryding Assistant Building Surveyor



What Degree Course are you studying?

Building Surveying at Liverpool John Moores University.

What did your role involve?

On my placement at MDA, I was appointed as an Assistant Building Surveyor in the Asset Management Team. This role involved me working with and alongside other undergraduates, project managers and directors – making me feel more of a valued employee and less like an intern. I predominantly undertook condition, general building, and invasive surveys to a plethora of residential properties both traditional and non-traditional. I had a level of independence and responsibility within the team carrying out tasks such as validating and reporting on other surveyors work to ensure accuracy; analysing data from site that would be used in the final report; contacting residents to book in appointments for their surveys and creating relationships with residents and site managers to ensure the smooth running of jobs.

How did you find it?

I am very grateful I decided to carry out my placement with MDA. From both my lecturers as well as previous placement students I only heard great things about the team. I genuinely feel like I learnt more in the first three months with the company than I did in my two years at university both in practical knowledge and life skills. Everyone in the team is super friendly and approachable meaning that any issues I struggled with, there was always someone to ask, which has allowed me to grow into my role and develop as an individual.

What skills, training and knowledge did you experience?

I have developed a significant amount of knowledge and have continued to develop my skills during my placement year. For example, on the structural engineering side I learnt, how to access the structural integrity of LPS and high-rise blocks; how to identify and survey different construction forms; the reasons why assessments need to be carried out; how to use different equipment, and the importance of onsite organisation and building great relationships with the client. On the stock condition side of the team, I learnt how to record the condition of each individual component within the property, how to manage my time and how to engage with residents from a variety of backgrounds.

MDA also offers regular CPD training with either industry experts or project managers within the team. Every two months, there is also a RICS workshop held where I and other undergraduates can learn about the APC process to become a chartered surveyor, over the course of the placement have been able to log a years' worth of completed CPD training in my diary.

How would you summarise my placement experience with MDA?

Overall, my placement with MDA has been invaluable. I have developed massively as an individual with skills that I will take into my last year of university as well as my future career. The chance to work with a team who are so knowledgeable and supportive on different and sometimes challenging projects is incomparable to sitting in a classroom at university. Therefore, I would encourage anyone to apply for a placement.

William Foxton Architectural Technician Undergraduate

What Degree Course are you studying?

Architecture Technology at Sheffield Hallam University

What did your role involve?

During my placement at MDA, I worked within two different Design Teams. In each of these teams I worked on a variety of projects, ranging from new builds using modern methods of construction to existing high-rise retrofit projects and implementing PAS. I found working on such an array of projects to be incredibly beneficial, broadening my current understanding in different areas of the industry and increasing my depth of knowledge in architecture.

Utilising my REVIT knowledge, I assisted by applying it in many of the projects I was involved in. Additionally, by using AutoCAD in the remaining projects, this worked in tandem with REVIT models. During the earlier stages of a project, I used Photoshop and SketchUp, which at the time were my weaker attributes, but now they have grown to be one of my strengths.



How did you find it?

After over 20 years of taking placement students, MDA has become very experienced in working with undergraduates. Over the years they have refined their induction process, which I found allowed me to settle very quickly with a very friendly Design Department which made me feel like one of the team.

As my placement progressed, I had meetings with my placement supervisors. During these meetings we discussed my placement goals that I wished to obtain by the time my placement ended. Drawing from this, my workload could be as varied or as consistent as I desired which meant that I always found interest in what I was doing and showed what I wanted to work on going forward.

What skills, training and knowledge did you experience?

An important part of my role at MDA was undertaking surveys. This involved me going into domestic dwellings to map out the existing internal layouts and establishing the floor and wall thicknesses. This gave me a greater appreciation and understanding for projects in their earlier stages and allowed for greater variety in my day-to-day working life.

Working in a frequently changing industry I partook in company organised CPD (Continuous Professional Development) sessions. These varied in subject and kept me updated on the latest industry changes, processes and innovations.



What our Undergraduates and Graduates say about us...

I moved from Bristol to undertake my placement year at MDA and it is one of the best decisions I've ever made.



As an undergraduate at the company you have a proper job role and contribute hugely to the team. The level of independence and responsibility you have allows you to develop your knowledge and skills massively to best prepare you for a graduate job and your final year at university. I genuinely feel like I learnt more in my first three months at the company than I did from my two years at university.

Everyone at MDA is so friendly and welcoming, it makes your first week a lot less daunting and you feel part of the team straight away. The management team are always there to help and support you even when you don't get things right the first time! I would recommend doing a placement at MDA to anyone as I believe the hands-on experience you get here is invaluable.

> Freya Jennings Assistant Building Surveyor

Following a successful placement year in 2017, I was given the opportunity to return as a graduate building surveyor in the Contract Administration Team. I have since had the opportunities to grow as a professional and progress within the company including my path to RICS proffesional membership. I am now responsible for delivering construction projects and managing clients' expectations on varied and high-profile schemes. I also play an active role in mentoring current undergraduates on their placement year, helping them gain knowledge and progress in their careers.

MDA acknowledges the value young professionals have within the construction industry and are committed to nurture and reward hard working individuals.

I joined MDA in 2004 as an undergraduate from Nottingham Trent University. At the time the industry was booming and the company offered me a great opportunity to gain significant experience on many of their exciting ongoing projects.



After a successful 18-month placement period and then successfully completing my university studies, I was offered a graduate role which both enabled me to develop my general skill set but also allowed me to gain RICS professional membership.

I progressed through the company to become a senior member of the Contract Administration Team, Associate and now Director. I provide supervisory and mentoring roles for various undergraduates / APC students and look forward to supporting the undergraduate and graduate process going forwards.





Upon completion of my undergraduate placement at MDA, I was extremely fortunate to be offered sponsorship for my final year at university. The support, both financial and educational, offered enabled me to really focus on my final year studies which, I believe, was testament to me achieving a first class honours degree. The knowledge I gained through a year in the industry was invaluable to me and certainly placed me in an excellent position to achieve this.



Following the completion of my degree and returning to MDA as a graduate, I have been supported throughout the whole process which allowed me to embrace my new role with confidence. At MDA I was provided with all necessary training including a network of support which is allowing me to progress my career as a building surveyor. MDA also provide a fantastic APC programme which holds you in good stead to achieve MRICS.

While also boasting modern offices which ensures your productivity at work, my fellow colleagues also help to provide a great working atmosphere. In addition to this, MDA also provide a variety of social events throughout the year with things such as beer and pizza afternoons! Overall the support, knowledge and confidence within the construction industry that MDA has provided me with is invaluable to my career.

Shaun Hanoman Graduate Building Surveyor

Graduate Employment Opportunities

At Michael Dyson Associates Ltd we have employment opportunities for graduates from the following construction disciplines:

- Building Surveying
- Project Management
- Construction Management
- Quantity Surveying
- Architectural Technology and Architecture

Working in a fast paced environment you will be part of a team delivering construction projects for a range of clients in the Housing sector across the UK. Being involved with projects from inception to completion, small or large, simple or complex, you must be confident, have the ability to think on your feet and be an able communicator.

Having highly motivated and entrepreneurially driven staff is fundamental to the success of our company and graduates with an aptitude and thirst to learn are encouraged to apply for these positions. You will receive our full technical and financial support in training towards achieving chartership of your relevant professional body (RICS, CIOB, RIBA, CIAT, etc.) with lots of job specific training and learning opportunities will be provided.

We offer an excellent salary and benefits package including company vehicle / car allowance, contributory pension scheme, up to 38 days holiday (inc bank holidays), four times salary life assurance, Employee Assistance Programme, hybrid working and 9-day fortnight schme, company bonuses, social events and payment of professional subscription fees.

I started as an undergraduate at MDA in 2014 and returned as a graduate in 2016 following a year of sponsorship. I finished university with a first class honours degree, something that I can attribute to the continued support that MDA provided throughout my final year of university.



As a returning graduate I was provided with a significant amount of help and support in order to progress my career. MDA invest in their graduates and where possible promotes from within.

Since returning to MDA I quickly progressed and was promoted to a Senior Building Surveyor / Project Manager position and more recently promoted to Associate within the Asset Management Team.

The company also offers excellent training, paid study leave and financial support towards your professional field. As you work through your structured training programme, I will be available to provide continued support and answer any questions you may have in relation to becoming chartered.

MDA is a friendly and rewarding place to work. With regular social events both in and out of the office you get to know everyone, from every team!

Lydia Israel MRICS, Chartered Building Surveyor

Apprenticeships & Supporting Careers in Construction

The continued career development of our staff is pivotal to our continued success. We firmly believe the more we support and invest in our people, the more we grow as a company.

Integrating education and work-based learning allows for career development alongside the significant benefit of earning while you learn. Whatever your background if you have enthusiasm, drive and a 'get up and go' nature then we can support you in obtaining a broad range of hands-on experience, professional qualifications and a career in construction.

Dependent upon your education level, whether you are looking at an entry level Apprenticeship through to a Degree Apprenticeship or a Masters Degree, our experienced professionals can support you with training and mentoring in the fields of Building Surveying, Quantity Surveying or Architecture.





What our people have to say...



Alongside starting at MDA as a Survey Technician, I have embarked on a 2 Year MSc Building Surveying course with the University College of Estate Management. Flexible study and work has been a great combination and MDA has fully supported me, allowing me to take day release to focus on my studies. During my time at MDA I have developed my project management skills, leading to promotion to project leader in a short space of time. The company has fully supported my journey to RICS Chartership by providing an MRICS counsellor and a fully structured training programme.

All relevant on the job training has been provided, as has awareness training, for example, First Aid, CSCS, Asbestos Awareness, Working from Heights, Mental Health and GDPR has been provided by MDA and has enabled me to expand my knowledge and work safely on site.

Jack Denbigh White

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Enrolling on the Chartered Building Surveying Degree Apprenticeship at Sheffield Hallam presented to me the opportunity to simultaneously earn and learn. It is a far reaching course which delves into the science and technology behind construction as well as the law and economics which it is required to follow, in order to work safely and efficiently. I am starting my fifth year of this five year course which aims to give students ample preparation to become chartered shortly after the course concludes.

Working at MDA has supplemented the studies with fantastic, hands on experience. Projects vary from new build sites to tower block refurbishments, with the geography of the jobs being equally diverse. The biggest perk however, is working within a vibrant team, who entrust myself with genuine responsibilities and have the necessary experience and support to manage my ongoing development.



Joe Dyson

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Alongside starting work at MDA as a Survey Technician, I am enrolling on a Building Surveying Degree Apprenticeship in Leeds. I am excited to start this new venture and take one step closer to becoming a chartered surveyor. I believe working at MDA alongside getting qualified will give me the right mix of hands-on experience and studying.

During my time at MDA, I have worked on tower blocks and non-traditional properties throughout the UK. I have developed my leadership skills and I am looking forward to taking the next step in my career. With no previous experience or qualifications in construction, all relevant on-the-job training has been provided, such as first aid, CSCS, asbestos awareness, working from height, and GDPR. As well as this, the team is very supportive and have made it very easy for me settle in whilst continuously helping me to develop within my role.

Liam Walton



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My current role at MDA is Survey Technician. This is a largely site-based role and involves attending properties and completing various surveying activities. During my time at MDA, I have developed my skill set and I am due to commence further training which will enable me to take more of a role managing smaller building projects, I am looking forward to this challenge and learning about what is involved in project management.

I am currently studying at Leeds College of Building and will complete Level 4 in the next few months. Following this, I will be looking to commence my degree apprenticeship and hope that due to my current grades, I can enter into the 2nd year where I will join two of my colleagues from the Asset Management Team. Over the next 12 months, my goal is to successfully complete my Level 4, start my degree, and move up into a more senior technician or project leader role creating a successful and long-lasting career with MDA.

Jack Midgley

Join Us

We are passionate about finding the right people to join us, develop with us and be part of our continued success.

We typically recruit around 10 placement students each year with the following qualities:

- Successful completion of second year studies passing all core modules
- Full UK driving licence is essential
- Willingness to travel (all travel & expenses paid by the company)
- Good communication skills, enthusiastic and driven to succeed



Application Process

We keep our application and interview process simple. We ask that you send in your CV along with a one page covering letter telling us about yourself, why you want a placement with us and any other information that will make you stand out.

- Applications should be made from 3rd October 2023 via: www.mdysoncareers.co.uk
- The application deadline is 23rd February 2024
- Shortlisted applicants will be invited to interview from 10th October 2023 onwards with all placements made by end of March 2024
- We allocate our placements as we interview and find the right people the sooner you apply the better!

Graduate vacancies are advertised on our website careers page or you can also upload your CV under our speculative applications, so your details are held on our system for any future opportunities.

Should you wish to discuss upcoming placements apprenticeships or graduate opportunities in further detail prior to applying please contact Emma Taylor (Director) who oversees our recruitment process on **01484 666888** or email **etaylor@mdyson.co.uk**



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"My placement year at Michael Dyson Associates Ltd gave me a greater understanding of what I want to do in the future." BUILDING SURVEYING QUANTITY SURVEYING CONSTRUCTION MANAGEMENT ARCHITECTURE & DESIGN PROJECT MANAGEMENT