



Going Places with Geography



The Built Environment

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**Royal
Geographical
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Advancing geography
and geographical learning

I studied BSc Geography with Economics at London School of Economics, and then to further enhance my skills studied a Master's in Project and Enterprise at University College London. My specific area of interest in geography has always been urban economics, how cities develop/decline and the role economics theory plays in this. Prior to my current job I worked for Mace, an international construction and consultancy company working on the London Olympic Games and primary school expansion projects.

What does your role entail?

CBRE are a global real estate services adviser and I work for a global technology client who occupies office space around the world. As their business changes, their office needs change. Once they know they need to vacate, expand or acquire a new office, we get involved to manage the process for them.

A typical day for me involves travelling the world from my base in London. I have regular calls with project teams in Rome, Madrid, Dubai, Paris, and Riyadh to name a few. My role is to make sure our local teams are following the client's process, provide guidance for when there are issues they cannot resolve, report to the client on progress, risks and costs, and finally and most importantly enable the client to make quick informed decisions on a global portfolio of projects.

How does geography help you in your everyday work?

Working across countries, with people from all over the world presents many challenges, ranging from scheduling meetings in different time zones

and being mindful of national/religious holidays, to more complex legal and tax issues, and having an understanding of the world certainly helps. It has allowed me to be empathetic to the different cultures I'm working with and allows me to be strategic when looking at the global needs of clients and how we compliment them.

Advice to someone thinking of taking geography further

There are many geographers in the built environment industry (construction and real estate) and many have jobs similar to mine in project management or surveying. Many firms take geographers on and train them in-house, or even pay for you to complete a further Master's degree. We can analyse information and provide reasoned conclusions and solutions when required, and can work in all parts of a team effectively. Being a good project manager is a rarity and geographers are some of the best.

Other geographers working in this sector include

Assistant Planner, Turley
Chartered Surveyor, Ministry of Defence
Commercial Assistant, Royal British Legion
Events Executive, Historic Royal Palaces
Graduate Land Surveyor, Kemp Chartered Land and Engineering Surveyors
Property Manager, Foxtons
Regeneration Research Assistant, Aspire Housing Group
Senior Transport Consultant, Mouchel
Sustainability Analyst, European Bank for Reconstruction and Development

Further support

Details of undergraduate courses: For more details of the range of geography courses offered by universities and how you can enhance your application to higher education see www.rgs.org/studygeography.

Join the Society at www.rgs.org/joinus As a GCSE or A Level pupil you can become a Young Geographer and benefit from up-to-date case studies, a subscription to the *Geographical* magazine, viewing lectures by leading geographers online or at the Society and you can also include your membership in your personal statement.