

# Quick overview of the APC for newbies!

solomons europe



## What is the APC?

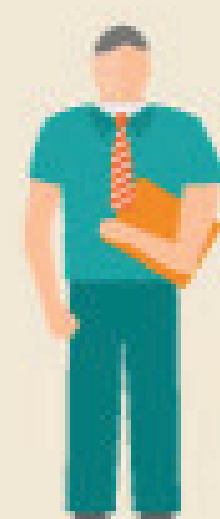


The Assessment of Professional Competence (APC) is a framework laid down by the RICS against which to assess candidates to determine their competence in certain technical, business, interpersonal and management aspects to evaluate their suitability to meet the standards of professionalism required of a Chartered Surveyor.

## RICS Routes to Membership

Accredited degree + less than 5 years relevant experience	Accredited degree + min 5 years relevant experience	Accredited degree + min 10 years relevant experience	Non accredited degree + min 5 years relevant experience	Member of ACostE (or other approved body) + min 5 years relevant experience
Min. 24 months (400 days) Structured Training	Min. 12 months (200 days) Structured Training	No Structured Training requirement	No Structured Training requirement	No Structured Training requirement
Pathway Competency Signoff	Pathway Competency Signoff	Pathway Competency Signoff	Preliminary review to demonstrate competence	Preliminary review to demonstrate competence
Minimum 96 hours CPD within 400 day training Period	Minimum 48 hours CPD within 200 day training Period	Minimum 20 hours CPD within Period	Minimum 20 hours CPD within Period	Minimum 20 hours CPD within Period

## How does the APC work?



Not an easy question to answer! It depends which route to membership you are taking. In essence, the common factor is that competence must be demonstrated in all pathway areas in order to evidence suitability for election as a Chartered Surveyor. How long this may take will depend on the route you are eligible to follow.

## Who does what?

You	Solomons	Counsellor	Supervisor
The central ethos of the APC is that you, the candidate are fully committed to following the structured training framework to successful completion. This requires effective time planning and organisation to ensure effective and focused self development along the way.	Solomons will provide support and encouragement along the way and will be able to offer assistance in completing your final assessment submissions and preparing for your interview.	Your counsellor will provide support throughout the APC process and is responsible for verifying your progress against the required competencies at 6 monthly intervals as a minimum.	Your supervisor should have an awareness of your day to day role and be able to point you in the right direction in developing the required level of competence, ideally with formal review points every 3 months.

## What is a Pathway?



Pathways are the different routes available to Surveyors to reach Chartership.



We at Solomons follow the "Quantity Surveying and Construction Pathway", but Pathways exist for Surveyors of Fine Art, Commercial Property, Geomatics and many more.



The Pathway followed determines which competencies you will be required to demonstrate in order to attain member status.

## The Quantity Surveying & Construction Pathway

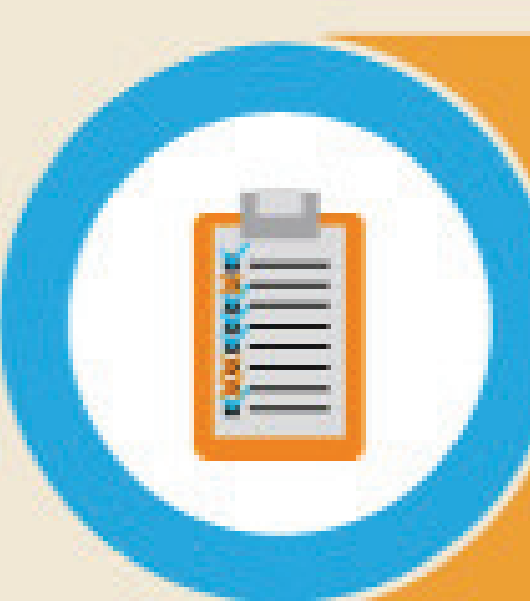


The RICS describes the QS a "cost managers of construction", who must understand all aspects of construction over the whole life of the facility.



For us process and engineering sector QS's this is indeed a big ask and means a broad and meaningful awareness of the whole project life.

## Competency Groups & Levels



**Mandatory**

- Mandatory skills include
- Personal
- Interpersonal
- Professional
- Business skills



**Technical**

- Technical skills include
- Core - primary skills
- Optional - additional self selected competencies relating to area of expertise

### Level 1

#### Knowledge & Understanding

At this level you need to be able to explain any learning or training you have done relevant to the competency - which can be on the job, online courses, workshops, etc. In some cases you may have covered Level 1 via your degree studies.

### Level 2

#### Application

This is where you must be able to show your ability to put your learning into practice on the job. You should be able to give specific examples from your own projects and experiences and effectively articulate your personal involvement in these aspects.

### Level 3

#### Reasoned Advice & Depth of Knowledge

This is the killer level where you must effectively demonstrate your professional competence through your ability to provide reasoned, reliable advice to your client. This requires you to act impartially and with due reference to current case law, regulations, industry standards and best practice in order to ensure you can act as trusted advisor within your current client/team.

## Competencies specific to QS Pathway

### Mandatory competencies

You must achieve the minimum levels as set out in the mandatory competencies.

#### Level 3

- Conduct rules, ethics and professional practice

#### Level 2

- Client care
- Communication and negotiation
- Health and safety

#### Level 3

- Accounting principles and procedures
- Business planning
- Conflict avoidance, management and dispute resolution procedures
- Data management
- Sustainability
- Team working

### Core competencies

#### Level 3

- Commercial management of construction or Design economics and cost planning
- Contract practice
- Construction technology and environmental services
- Procurement and tendering
- Project financial control and reporting
- Quantification and costing of construction works

### Optional competencies

Two competencies at Level 2 from the list below

- Commercial management of construction or Design economics and cost planning (which one is not selected as a core competency)
- Contract administration
- Programming and planning
- Project evaluation
- Risk management
- Conflict avoidance, management and dispute resolution procedures

### N.B. this list has been reduced to those relevant to the work undertaken at Solomons Europe

Candidates must elect from one of the following fields of work

- Construction
- Civil Engineering
- Railways
- Petro-chemicals
- Oil / gas installations
- Mechanical and electrical installations.

The RICS advises that Quantity surveyors working in a commercial or contracting environment will probably choose commercial management of construction to Level 3. Quantity surveyors working in a consulting environment within either the public or private sector will probably choose design economics and cost planning to Level 3.

## How to tackle the APC

- You are in the driving seat!
- Speak regularly with your supervisor and counsellor
- Achieve tangible progress in each 3 month window
- Keep your Solomons training plan up to date and speak with your line manager regularly regarding skills gaps, so you can work together to address these with practical steps and experience

## RICS Templates which may help get started

- Self assessment form

- Candidate Diary template

- Log book template

