

THE QUANTITY SURVEYORS WORKGROUP

Who are Quantity Surveyors?

Quantity surveyors are professionals who keep building projects on time, on target and on budget. They help clients make informed decisions and bring together cost, contracts and strategy, from concept to completion.



Real human subjects with AI-generated elements
Istilah Abali (Turner & Townsend), Stephanie Ho (LTA), Lew Ying Tong (LTA) and Goh Khang Jin (JTC)

QS contributions across the project lifecycle



Design stage

Provide early cost advice, cost planning and procurement strategies which enable clients to make sound decisions in project planning



Tender stage

Support tender preparation through fair procurement practices and clear scoping of works to reduce risk of disputes while ensuring smooth project delivery



Construction stage

Safeguard project outcomes by providing contractual advice, managing claims and ensuring cashflow to contractors without overpayment by clients

The Quantity Surveyors Workgroup

The QS profession is at an inflection point, with a growing talent gap, evolving competency needs, and opportunities to embrace digital transformation



Formed in February 2026, the QS Workgroup brought together service buyers, QS firms, Institutes of Higher Learning (IHLs), Trade Associations and Chambers (TACs) and relevant government agencies to strengthen the profession's workforce and business resilience

Strategic Outcomes



Attract

Raise awareness on roles, value-add and career pathways of the QS profession



Develop and retain

Raise professional standing and uplift capabilities. Instill good HR practices

Business sustainability

Strengthen viability of QS firms to support workforce development, technology adoption, and drive productivity growth



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ATTRACTING TALENTS INTO THE PROFESSION

Where we are

Despite the high demand for QS professionals, dedicated QS courses in our IHLs and exposure to the profession are limited.

Goal

Help people understand what QS professionals do and make it easier to enter the profession.



Improve exposure and pathways

Broaden engagement efforts and increase entry pathways for students and mid-career professionals



Introduce QS content in IHL curriculum

The Department of the Built Environment at the National University of Singapore (NUS DBE) has introduced the Specialisation in Contract Management and Cost Engineering, while efforts are underway to introduce QS content at polytechnics

Mid-career professionals can enter the profession through SUSS' part-time degree in Building and Project Management or the Career Conversion Programme for Built Environment Professionals administered by The Singapore Contractors Association Limited (SCAL)



Onboard QS firms on INSPIRE

Students can gain industry experience through the enhanced internship (INSPIRE) and have a headstart in Accredited Professional Quantity Surveyor (APQS) accreditation



INSPIRE: Where internships count as relevant work experience. Returning interns can join the same firm with higher starting salaries



APQS: An accreditation scheme that recognises competencies and chart pathways for career advancement

Improve branding and recognition efforts

Raise public appreciation which attracts more talent to the profession



Rebrand the 'Quantity Surveyor' title to reflect the profession's broad and strategic role



Develop a QS playbook showcasing QS career pathways and competencies and the value QS brings to projects



Celebrate QS achievements and contributions by the service buyers



Showcase evolving roles, value-add and career pathways of quantity surveyors through publicity efforts featuring practising professionals, their contributions and career journeys

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BUILDING THE NEXT GENERATION OF QUANTITY SURVEYORS

Where we are

Building a strong QS workforce goes beyond attracting new talent. We also need to create supportive workplaces, uplift professional standing and strengthen capabilities.



Gan Bee Lin, Tan Chin Lee, Daniel Cheong and Judy Phillies Lim (JTC)

Create better workplaces

Build positive workplace environments that attract, engage and retain QS professionals



Built Environment Culture for Appreciation, Respect and Empathy (BE CARE) Charter

Firms to adopt good workplace and collaborative practices centered on BE CARE principles of Openness and Respect, Smart Meetings and Communications, and Respecting Rest Periods

Raise professional standing

Give greater formal recognition to the responsibilities and contributions of QS professionals in project delivery



Recognise the QS role in contracts

Formalise their roles in standard construction contracts such as the Public Sector Standard Conditions of Contract

Uplift Capabilities

Build a workforce recognised for its competencies, expertise and professionalism



Accelerate adoption of professional accreditation

Encourage adoption of professional accreditation, such as the APQS, as a benchmark of competency and professionalism



Adopt competency-based remuneration

Recognise and reward professionals based on demonstrated competencies



Embark on Job Redesign

Review and restructure QS job role to incorporate technology, making jobs more attractive and sustainable for prospective talents

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STRENGTHENING BUSINESS PRACTICES AND LEVERAGING TECHNOLOGY

Where we are

Sustainable QS firms are better able to invest in their people, capabilities and technology. Strengthening business and industry practices can help firms improve productivity, innovate and deliver greater value to clients.



Tay Wan Ding, Silas Loh, Lai Sun Mei, Lorraine Batobato and Vanessa Budi (RLB)

Strengthen business and industry practices

Enable QS firms to better differentiate themselves in terms of the value-add they bring to the projects



Procure QS services separately

Service buyers are recommended to procure QS services separately to allow better differentiation of their value-add



QS Value Articulation Framework

Establish common understanding of the core and value-added services required for a project and corresponding fees



Clarify requirements for star rates assessment

Provide greater clarity on how cost reasonableness can be established while maintaining cost governance

Leverage technology and Artificial Intelligence (AI) solutions

Tap on digital technologies and AI to improve workflows and productivity and enable QS professionals to focus on higher-value work



Standardise requirements and workflows

Streamline QS workflows through standardisation for payment and variation templates to improve data quality and enable greater use for analytics and AI



Raise awareness of available tools and use cases

Assist QS firms to identify suitable technological solutions and learn from industry experiences



Develop AI-enabled cost intelligence platform

Consolidated cost information, augmented with AI, to strengthen cost benchmarking and support more efficient, data-driven assessments

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