



DECADE



DUNDEE AND ANGUS
COLLEGE

Shaun Gormley

A D&A Spotlight Interview

Ambition & Reinvention: Shaun's Journey from Scaffolding to Senior Quantity Surveyor

Meet Shaun, Senior Quantity Surveyor. Shaun's journey is a testament to the courage it takes to step out of your comfort zone and the rewards that come with embracing change.

When you were younger? What did you dream of doing as a job?

"When I was young, I had no idea what type of job or career path I wanted to follow. When I left school, I was given an opportunity for an apprenticeship in scaffolding which is where my interest in the construction industry began."

Can you share a bit about yourself and what you were up to when you first came to D&A?

"My name is Shaun, I am 29 years old, and I am currently a Senior Quantity Surveyor for Robertson Construction Tayside."

"Prior to joining D&A, I was about to embark on a significant career change."

"After four years as a Scaffolder, I made the tough decision to step out my comfort zone and explore further education to open new opportunities within the construction industry."

"After reviewing the course offerings at Dundee and Angus College, I decided to apply for the HND Building Surveying course."

Thinking about your time at D&A, what are some standout moments or experiences that you still carry with you?

"I was given a one-week work placement opportunity with Robertson Construction Tayside, where I had the chance to shadow a Quantity Surveyor."

"This experience was eye-opening and allowed me to see the day-to-day responsibilities and challenges of the role firsthand. As the week went on, I realised this was the career path I wanted to pursue."

"Having the opportunity to be involved in some really exciting projects coupled with the collaborative work environment really appealed to me. This confirmed

that a career as a Quantity Surveyor was the right fit for my future."

How did your experiences at D&A lay the pathway for your career? Are there any classes or staff that set you on your path?

"I had really positive experiences with all my lecturers but one in particular stood out."

"My course leader, John Mitchell, continuously offered me advice and support throughout my time at D&A. I really appreciated John's down to earth approach to lecturing which I found really helpful after making the jump back into further education."

"John selected me to complete the one-week work placement at Robertson Construction Tayside which has led me to where I am today and for that, I will always be grateful."

What were the first steps that you took after finishing your course, and how did your time here shape your career choices?

"During my work placement, I was told about a possible job opening within Robertson as a Trainee Quantity Surveyor. This would allow me to experience the role but also further my education at university."

"I was working at Tesco part-time to support my studies but after completing my HND, I found out I was successful at interview and started my new role as Trainee Quantity Surveyor at Robertson several months later."

Where has your career taken you since those early days?

"Since starting my career in Quantity Surveying, I have had the opportunity to work with some great people and been involved in some really exciting

projects such as Menzieshill Community Centre, Baluniefield Nursery School and Michelin Scotland Innovation Parc (MSIP).

“These opportunities have allowed me to progress to a Senior Quantity Surveyor at Robertson Construction Tayside where I have worked for the last 7 years.”

Looking at your journey so far, what are some moments or accomplishments that make you particularly proud?

“One of the moments I’m particularly proud of is receiving a First-Class Honours Degree in Quantity Surveying.”

“It wasn’t an easy journey, but it showed me how much I could achieve when I put my mind to something. It confirmed that I was on the right path and has given me a lot of confidence moving forward in my career.”

If you could share a piece of advice with current students based on your experience, what would it be?

“My biggest piece of advice to current students is to never be afraid to make a change because you won’t know what you’re capable of until you try.”

“Another piece of advice would be to surround yourself with people who will support and encourage you along the way.”

What are your hopes for the future?

“In the future, I hope to keep growing in my career, continue learning, tackle new challenges and possibly step into more leadership roles as I gain further experience.”

“I might even dive back into education in years to come.”

