

Survey Assistant



Alternate title Assistant (Survey); Chainperson; Survey Hand; Surveyor's Field Assistant

Description Survey assistants help surveyors determine the position, shape and elevation of the Earth's natural features, such as hills, valleys, vegetation, rivers and lakes. They also determine property boundaries for parcels of land, building sites, reservoirs, roads and drainage systems.

Survey assistants are required to work outdoors and may work in remote areas for prolonged periods. If employed in mine surveying, they may be required to work underground.

Typical duties

- clear vegetation and debris so that measurements may be taken;
- transport, assemble, dismantle and maintain surveying equipment
- peg out boundaries and construction works;
- collect and label samples as directed;
- assist surveyors and/or survey technicians in measuring angles, distances and elevations using tape or steel band, or more sophisticated digital equipment that uses satellite (GPS), radio and light waves;
- record measurements manually or in an electronic field-data recorder.

Personal requirements

- good powers of observation;
- able to work accurately and carefully;
- able to work as part of a team.

Qualification

- Certificate III in Spatial Information Services
- Associate Degree in Spatial Science

Entry pathway You can work as a survey assistant without formal qualifications. However, entry to this occupation may be improved if you have qualifications. You will probably get some informal training on the job. Employers usually like at least Year 10, and in some cases prefer Year 12.

Entry to the certificate course usually requires Year 10. As subjects can vary between institutions, you should contact your chosen institution for full details.



An Australian Government Initiative



Construction and Property Industry Skills Council

Job prospects Survey Assistants may work for government departments and authorities such as those responsible for roads, land administration and minerals and energy, or for private enterprises such as mining companies, land developers or surveying and cartographic firms.

The vacancy level for Survey Assistants is very high. Vacancies arising from job changing (Survey Assistants changing employers) are expected to provide 18 per cent of vacancies, compared with 82 per cent from job openings

Specialisation Survey assistants work in a range of surveying areas such as land (cadastral), hydrographic (surveys of waterways), engineering and mining.

Related Jobs

- Geoscience Technician
- Science Field Officer
- Geological Survey Field Assistant
- Seismic Survey Assistant
- Survey Recorder

Further information

- Institution of Surveyors [www.isaust.org.au/]
- Spatial Sciences Institute (Head Office) [www.spatialsciences.org.au/]
- Geoscience Australia [ga.gov.au]
- Australian Spatial Information Business Association (National Office) [www.asiba.com.au/]