

Last updated: January 2007

At present, the New York office lacks the resources to provide job search assistance to our members and potential members. What we can do, though, is give you a few general suggestions that may aid your effort to 'cross the pond'...

1. Review general websites that exist for property job seekers.

Construction:

<http://enr.construction.com/people/>
www.construction.com
<http://www.construction.com>
<http://www.construction.com>

Commercial Property:

<http://www.careers-in-finance.com/retop.htm>

Real Estate Development:

http://dmoz.org/Business/Real_Estate/Development/

Also:

http://www.hoovers.com/company-information/--HICID_1498--/free-ind-factsheet.shtml
<http://www.realestatejobs.com>
<http://www.real-jobs.com>

Though RICS does not endorse these web sites - or the firms the web sites list - over any other, RICS Americas members are familiar with these firms, and may be able to direct you to an appropriate contact. Although a few members have found the aforementioned websites useful, most seem to rely primarily on networking.

2. Identify employers in your area that also have offices in the United States. Local surveyors, working in international firms, may have information - if not established exchange programs - about gaining employment abroad. Traditionally, firms consider sending existing employees abroad based on project opportunities and length of service. Knowledgeable contacts may be identified through:

RICS Regional Directory of Chartered Surveyors <http://www.ricsfirms.com/vw/search/location.aspx>

3. Reach out to RICS Americas members. If you are a registered student, trainee or fully qualified Member, you can search for RICS colleagues by name, location or faculty via the members' only section of our web site: <http://www.rics.org/RICSWeb/findcolleague.aspx>

No matter what search method you use - or how strong your networking skills are - gaining employment in the United States (for example) requires a visa for entry into the country. There are three types of visas for which you may consider applying: H-1B, L-1 and J-1. More information about the visa process is included on the next page.

Getting a job in the U.S. can be complicated, as the terminology and processes differ. Impressive overseas qualifications simply may not register with American employers, and many real estate professionals in the U.S. do not even know what terms like "Quantity Surveying" or "Estate Management" mean. A candidate must be sure to explain his/her specific qualifications and skills, not just the names of the degrees. Indeed, the best advice I can offer you is to begin networking by reaching out to RICS members you know - and RICS members you don't know yet - via the websites and tools listed above.

Immigration to the United States – Visas

An individual cannot come to the United States without a visa. There are three types of visa you may want to consider applying for: **H-1B**, **L-1** and **J-1**.

The **H-1B** visa that “enables professionals in "specialty occupations" to make a valuable contribution to the American economy. A maximum of 195,000 H-1B visas issued every year. The H-1B visa is issued for up to three years and may be extended. This provides a maximum stay of six years. The H1-B visa holder can apply for a Green Card if a company wants to sponsor his/her Green Card application.

“The **H-1B** non-immigrant visa may be issued to applicants seeking temporary entry in a specialty occupation and possess professional skills...The petitions are submitted by employers based on their need for the non-US-resident employee. The applicant may possess a bachelor's degree and requisite experience to make up for the lack of a master's degree.”¹

The **L-1** visa “is available to a foreign national who, within the three years immediately prior to entering the U.S., has been employed abroad for at least one continuous year and is now seeking temporary admission to the U.S. to be employed by a parent/branch/affiliate/subsidiary of that foreign employer in a managerial or executive capacity, or in a position requiring specialized knowledge.”²

The **J-1** visa “program is actually an "exchange program" and not necessarily a student-based program. However, by far, students seeking their medical degrees in the United States are the most frequent users of the visa. The J visa is preferred over the F by some students since the spouse of the J-1 is allowed to work in the United States (albeit in a limited capacity). Conversely, the J visa is disfavored by many students due to the foreign residency requirements imposed on certain J-1 visa-holders. You may enter the U.S. in J-1 status if you are going to participate in a USIA program as a bona fide student, scholar, trainee, teacher, professor, research assistant, specialist, or leader in a field of specialized knowledge or skill.”³

In addition to the three ‘unofficial’ websites listed in the footnotes, you can also refer to the official, U.S. Immigration and Citizenship Services website, located at:

<http://uscis.gov/graphics/howdoi/h1b.htm>

Immigration to Canada – Visas

General Information is available at:

<https://www.immigration.ca/assess2.asp>
<http://www.cic.gc.ca/>

This information is subject to change.

Please refer to the appropriate website and appropriate government agencies

¹ <http://easycitizen.com/us/6.html>

² <http://www.immigration.com/faq/lvisa.html#70>

³ <http://www.usvisanews.com/j1info.html>