



Skills solutions for the social housing sector



www.sava.co.uk



hello@sava.co.uk



01908 442158



Welcome



There is no doubt that the whole of the built environment is suffering a skills shortage, and this is no different within the UK's 5 million social rented properties. With the Social Housing (Regulation) Bill recommending that all senior managers are qualified to Level 4 or 5, now is the time to begin upskilling staff.

Sava has a range of qualifications and training programmes to help address this skills shortage. This brochure is focused on two qualifications: the Diploma in Residential Surveying and Valuation and the Diploma in Residential Surveying.

Both provide vocational, part-time training in the key residential construction and

pathology skills needed to identify defects and better understand housing. The Diploma in Residential Surveying and Valuation also provides the skills needed to value property for those involved in the purchase and sale of homes.

Over 600 surveyors have qualified through a Sava programme over the last 9 years and become professional members of the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors (RICS) and the Chartered Association of Building Engineers (CABE). Sava has also been providing skills and education within the built environment for the last 40 years.

This prospectus will take you through our qualifications and address how they will help your organisation. If you would like to find out more or have any questions, no matter how small, our friendly team of course advisors are on hand to help.

Hilary Grayson

Director of Surveying Services

Sava

Improving ‘bricks & mortar’ skills in social housing is vital



Homes in the social rented sector constitute a significant financial asset for the UK and, beyond the bricks and mortar, signify a vital commitment to our society to provide homes that are warm, comfortable and safe.

With the government’s focus on housing quality and building safety at an all-time high, properly maintaining homes is not only of critical importance in improving the longevity of housing stock, but also an investment in the wellbeing of our communities.

In 2022, the Housing Ombudsman reported that the **largest cause of complaints that they investigated was related to the condition of homes**, with 51% of all complaints falling into that category.

Many social housing providers do not have adequate professionally trained team

members to properly identify and report on defects and risks within their housing stock. And if you are unable to identify the defects and risks in these homes, then it is impossible to start to improve them.

There is a lack of suitable training programmes on offer which lead to professional memberships with bodies such as the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors (RICS) or the Chartered Association of Building Engineers (CABE). Sava has aimed to address this issue with the diplomas we provide.

It is vital that housing providers are investing in high quality training that delivers tangible results to improve their housing stock, identify risks and, most importantly, provide warm, safe, desirable homes for their customers. Here at Sava, our qualifications are designed with exactly that in mind.

Making buildings better: it's in our heritage



Sava has been involved in energy ratings for the last 40 years. You may have known us as National Energy Services before we re-branded to Sava in 2018. We have been providing software to the social housing sector for the last 25 years and our software is used by over 220 housing providers throughout the UK, analysing a combined portfolio of over 3 million properties.

Sava has been providing skills and education to address the skills shortage for the last 40 years.

Bricks and mortar issues are the biggest cause of complaints to the Housing Ombudsman

51%

of complaints to the Housing Ombudsman were about the quality of homes

Whereas...

14%

of complaints to the Housing Ombudsman were about complaint handling

10%

of complaints to the Housing Ombudsman were about anti-social behaviour

* For the complaints received from October to December 2022, property condition was by far the largest category at 51%.

The Qualifications

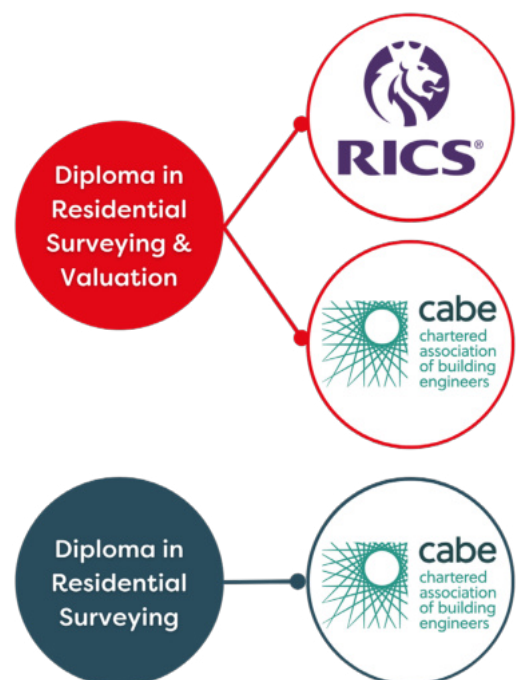


Both the **Diploma in Residential Surveying and Valuation** and **Diploma in Residential Surveying** are level 6 vocational qualifications, meaning they provide the practical skills and knowledge needed to start surveying properties and identifying risks as soon as the learner is qualified. A level 6 qualification is equivalent to a degree in terms of academic rigour.

Whilst a degree is focused around the theory, these qualifications focus on the practical nature of how to identify defects and report on them. They have been purpose designed by practising surveyors and the content is delivered by the UK's leading Chartered Surveyors and experts.

Learners will benefit from part-time training in the critical residential construction and building pathology skills needed to identify issues and defects, and better understand housing. The Diploma in Residential Surveying and Valuation also provides the skills needed to value property for those involved in the purchase and sale of homes.

Our qualifications provide pathways to professional memberships, as below:



HOW DOES THE TRAINING WORK?

Training is delivered over 15 months via a mix of virtual classrooms, online learning and face-to-face sessions at locations around the country. The majority of learning is delivered online, with 8 face-to-face days delivered at a chosen location and a further 4 practical days delivered at our training properties in Milton Keynes.

HOW DOES THE ASSESSMENT WORK?

Learners will complete a portfolio for assessment. This includes 10 condition reports (and valuations depending on the qualification) to demonstrate technical knowledge, as well as written tasks to assess business and interpersonal skills. It is through this assessment stage that skills and knowledge are demonstrated. After this, there are 2 multiple-choice examinations.

HOW LONG DOES IT TAKE?

Training is delivered over 15 months. The assessment phase starts 11 months into the qualification and takes between 12-18 months to complete (learner dependent).

WHO AM I TRAINED BY?

The training is delivered by leading surveying practitioners, many of whom deliver training for the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors and have written much of the industry guidance and textbooks that are used in the diplomas.

HOW MUCH STUDY IS NEEDED?

This depends on the relevance of past work experience and individual learning styles. Most learners dedicate 10-15 hours each week to studying.

WHAT ARE THE ENTRY REQUIREMENTS?

There are no formal entry requirements to enrol on our diploma qualifications. However, we do recommend that learners possess a good understanding of English Writing, Mathematics and IT skills at an equivalent standard to GCSE level C.

WHO IS THE QUALIFICATION DESIGNED FOR?

The qualification is designed for those without a relevant degree or experience who wish to enter the surveying profession. It is suitable for anyone to undertake; however, a background in the property or construction industry would be an advantage.

SOME OF OUR EXPERT TRAINERS



LARRY RUSSEN (FRICS, FCABE)
CHARTERED BUILDING SURVEYOR



FIONA HAGGETT (FRICS)
CHARTERED SURVEYOR AND VALUER



ALAN APPLEBY (FRICS)
CHARTERED SURVEYOR AND VALUER



JOHN WHEATLEY (MRICS)
CHARTERED BUILDING SURVEYOR

Why train with Sava?

Sava is the training provider of choice for those looking to improve their skills and knowledge in residential construction and building pathology.

PART-TIME BLENDED LEARNING

Our courses are delivered via a blend of face-to-face and online learning, allowing studying around existing work and family commitments.

NO RELEVANT DEGREE REQUIRED

The Sava diplomas are vocational qualifications that teach everything needed to survey properties, so whether learners have experience or are completely new to the industry, the course is suitable for everyone.

QUALIFY IN JUST 18-24 MONTHS

Unlike the full-time degree routes, our diplomas have a specific focus on residential property meaning learners can gain their qualification in as little as 18 months, depending on which diploma they choose.

GAIN DIRECT ENTRY INTO RICS OR CABE

Depending on the diploma, Sava graduates can apply for prestigious Associate membership to RICS and CABE after qualifying. The Diploma in Residential Surveying and Valuation currently offers the only vocational pathway to becoming an AssocRICS member.

FOCUSED VOCATIONAL TRAINING

Our diplomas are vocational, meaning you're taught real-life skills by our expert trainers.

FULL SUPPORT PROVIDED

Sava has a dedicated training team to ensure the best learning experience possible. We are on hand for any query or concern and offer additional support to our learners when needed.

ALL TRAINING RESOURCES PROVIDED

We provide everything our learners need to be successful with their training. All textbooks, online resources, exams and webinars are included in the course fees.

“ At Sava we are dedicated to putting our learners first and providing the best possible experience, no matter what their background. The whole team is focused on helping our learners get the most from their qualifications, ensuring they have the necessary skills and knowledge to succeed once they qualify.

HELEN ORME
HEAD OF CUSTOMER
ENGAGEMENT



Modules

1. Induction

Introduction to the course, meeting Sava and your cohort, systems overview. Introduction to key learning and surveying skills.

2. Being a Professional

This module discusses everything it means to be professional and introduces ethics, client care, communication, regulation, and professional conduct. It covers conflict avoidance, management, and dispute resolution procedures.

3. Law

Law underpins the whole qualification. This module introduces law and discusses how it is made, introducing some land law concepts such as easements, restrictive covenants, contract law, negligence, and occupiers' liability. It also covers legal and regulatory compliance.

4. Property Research and Observation

Observational and research skills are essential for surveying and these modules introduce how to complete thorough property research and develop the skills needed to 'see' and record those observations. This module also includes the importance of keeping property records and data management and introduces health and safety.

5. Valuation (DRSV only)

These modules provide the fundamental knowledge and understanding to complete RICS-compliant valuations of residential properties. They cover many aspects of valuation from an introduction to the concept of 'what is value' to the process required in valuing a property using the comparable method, macro and micro economic factors that affect value, and understanding the legal and regulatory requirements embedded in this subject area. The approach is practical and includes the use of lender guidance, recording of relevant data used in the valuation process and using supporting software to help determine the property value. A range of specialist valuation methods in Residual, New Build and Investment are also included.

6. Investigating Residential Property – Case Study Properties

These modules focus on how properties are built and what can go wrong. They look at sites, foundations, floors, roofs, walls, and joinery. We explore how residential buildings should be correctly built and the process of diagnosing the cause of defects such as building movement, dampness etc.



7. Investigating Residential Property – Building Services

This module covers how service systems such as electrics and drainage are inspected, what can go wrong and how to report on it (not to the level of a qualified engineer).

8. Inspecting Property

Building upon the observation and recording skills from earlier in the course, this focuses on the inspection ‘agenda’ and equipment. It covers property measurement in depth (including industry regulatory standards) and looks at residential rebuilding costs. It also covers health and safety whilst on-site.

9. Consistent Report Writing

This module looks in detail at how to report findings to clients and the importance of client care. It covers the production and distribution of condition reports, the duty to the client and principles of good report writing.



10. Investigating Residential Property – Practical Days

The practical days are site visits to a range of real properties to carry out a full inspection followed by a detailed analysis of the findings to determine what defects might exist and how impactful they would be on the owner. Please note: regardless of course location, these site visits take place in Milton Keynes. The practical sessions will be followed by an overview day to ensure you develop a robust inspection technique.

11. Energy & Sustainability

This module focuses on sustainability using the ‘three pillar’ framework. It looks in depth at energy efficiency and how appropriate energy improvement measures and renewable technologies can contribute to the carbon-saving agenda. It covers RdSAP conventions as part of this, but the course does not give you the ability to produce Energy Performance Certificates (EPCs).

12. Introduction to Assessment

This covers the preparation needed for the assessment process, how to present evidence for your qualification, and an overview of how to use the online e-portfolio system.

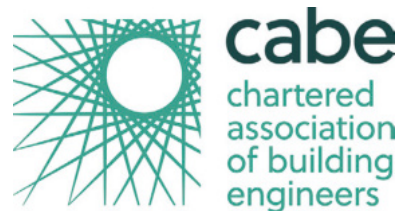
Routes to professional membership

The Sava diplomas both provide direct entry into the Chartered Association of Building Engineers (CABE). In addition, the Diploma in Residential Surveying and Valuation allows direct entry into the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors (RICS). Here's more about these professional bodies:



RICS

The Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors (RICS) is the leading professional body for land, property and construction in the UK. Without an exempting degree it can be a real challenge to become a member of RICS. Although routes to membership exist, they are usually designed for people with university degrees. However, the Diploma in Residential Surveying and Valuation offers direct entry as an Associate member once you have completed an online RICS ethics module.



CABE

The Chartered Association of Building Engineers (CABE) is an internationally recognised professional body. Membership of CABE shows your peers, employers and the public that you are a competent and ethical professional who can be relied upon to strive for the highest possible standards.





“Working for a social housing provider within an Asset Management team it was key for me to learn and understand about buildings in detail.

“As a building surveyor I needed to develop and build on my experience with fundamental building pathology knowledge in order to be able to fulfil my job to the best of my ability. Having no formal degree to follow a RICS pathway directly, the Sava course allowed me to gain a recognised qualification with direct access into AssocRICS.

“Having achieved this I have been able to apply my learning directly to what I am doing on site and be confident in my own abilities when inspecting properties.”

FALLON WARREN
SAVA GRADUATE AND SENIOR RETROFIT BUILDING SURVEYOR AND COORDINATOR, ORBIT GROUP

“Sava offers bespoke training within residential surveying. This is, in my opinion, superior and prepares graduates far better for our area of work than any other traditional education courses.

“We have found all the Sava graduates we have interacted with to be very competent and to have excellent surveying skills.”

JAMES BROOK
FOUNDER, NOVELLO CHARTERED SURVEYORS



“The Sava diploma allowed me to work and study at the same time. It was important to me to have a qualification that I could fit around my work.

“I would definitely recommend the Sava diploma, I have learnt so much already and the trainers are all experts in their field.”

KEITH MITCHELL
SAVA LEARNER



Course fees

The Level 6 Diploma in Residential Surveying and Valuation is priced at £6,854 per year for 2 years. A total of £13,708 + VAT.

The Level 6 Diploma in Residential Surveying is priced at £4,560 per year for 2 years. A total of £9,120 + VAT.

What makes the course so valuable?

- Level 6 degree-equivalent qualification
- Vocational training focused on residential property
- Learn how to properly identify and report on defects and risks in housing
- Blended learning – study flexibly alongside work
- All course materials included, from textbooks to exam fees
- Expert trainers who are all active and renowned in their fields
- In-depth assessment with a practising surveyor
- Qualify in 18-24 months, faster than the university route
- Gain direct entry into professional bodies such as RICS and CABE

Next steps

To find out more about the diplomas or to discuss your training requirements, email us at hello@sava.co.uk or call us on **01908 442158**.





Visit our website



About Sava

Sava has provided education, technology and professional services to the housing sector for 40 years to help look after the UK's 29 million homes. We have been training residential surveying skills since 2005, enhancing industry knowledge and providing the housing sector with the means to upskill staff and deliver a better service to their customers.

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