

## Davis Langdon Career Stories

**John O'Neill** joined Davis Langdon after completing a doctorate and an eighteen month post-doctoral contract in the field of microbiology. John moved because he felt that Davis Langdon offered more security and opportunities than an academic career. On joining the firm he completed a part time MSc in construction cost management, which was sponsored by Davis Langdon and he subsequently became a member of the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors. John is now a Project Surveyor with responsibility for cost advice and cost control for all aspects of healthcare-related construction projects from inception through to completion.

John feels that his experience gained during the four years of his PhD (three years research and a year writing his doctoral theses) developed his ability to clearly and concisely analyse information and situations thereby allowing him to determine the best course of action in a given context or situation. Allied to this came the ability to work independently and structure workloads to enable the timely achievement of goals, not to mention the completion of his thesis.

John adds, “the very nature of scientific research results in the generation of outcomes that one may not have anticipated. It requires flexibility to incorporate that into how you then decide to proceed. The construction industry by its very nature can often result in unpredictable outcomes and my studies taught me to embrace these facts and then adjust to try and determine the best way forward”.

**Amy Whittaker** (Graduate Resourcing Advisor, Davis Langdon) notes that Davis Langdon employs doctorates as they are often able to demonstrate attributes such as analytical and reporting skills which are of key value to the firm.

“Candidates with a doctorate have a strong work ethic and demonstrate a commitment to achieving and delivering success. They are able to bring relevant skills to the organisation such as information gathering, analytical, communication and reporting skills, the ability to work without supervision and importantly for us, doctorates seem to be able to draw the most suitable and viable outcome or decision for the client. They know how to think big.”

Amy notes that many of these skills can also be found in other people within the firm, but feels that “the work and commitment required to research and complete a doctorate highlights certain skills that can add value to our business, and we will continue to recruit employees with doctorates where they are the most suitable person for the role.”