



## Student Transitions: Example of transitions practice

**Title: Accreditation of BA Rural Business Management by the Royal Institute of Chartered Surveyors (RICS).**

**Transition(s) the practice supports:** Transition from higher education to employment, with a particular focus on the rural pathway leading to chartered surveyor status.

**Abstract:** As Scotland's land-based HEI, SRUC has a well-established reputation for education tailored to rural industries. Accreditation of the degree in Rural Business Management by the Royal Institute of Chartered Surveyors (RICS) is unique in Scotland, and meets the increasing demand from the estate and land management industries for qualified entrants. Prior to the introduction of this accreditation (in 2014) there was no accredited rural-based undergraduate provision in Scotland, and students who studied an accredited course south of the border required retraining to work in Scotland due to differences in legislation.

SRUC's accredited programme therefore enhances local employment and allows students, with appropriate work experience, to progress to the RICS APC (Association of Professional Competence) rural pathway to chartered surveyor status.

**Description:** The Rural Business Management degree provides a strong underpinning foundation in the core business subjects of entrepreneurship, marketing, economics, finance, information technology and human resources alongside specialist rural-related modules. Those students who wish to take the RICS accredited route, which was introduced in 2014, must study specified modules focusing initially on understanding and managing arable and livestock agricultural systems together with agricultural premises. Students then study specialist degree modules in:

- Rural surveying & land-use
- Multipurpose woodland management
- Rural property valuation,
- Rural planning & land law.

With an emphasis on the Scottish environment and necessary legislation, these modules equip the students with practical skills and knowledge which enhance their personal development and employability in the Scottish sector, both in terms of placements within their course of study and on graduation. The demand for graduates within the estate and land management industries in Scotland remains strong and this degree course helps to meet this need for graduates with training in rural surveying.

At a recent accreditation meeting with RICS, the strength and depth of the industry links within this course was discussed and the role this plays in the development of the students and their future employability emphasised.

Examples of the types of careers and industrial placements undertaken by students in recent years include working as:

- Trainee rural surveyor
- Trainee agribusiness consultant (SAC Consulting)
- Trainee land valuer
- Potato trials officer with a national potato company
- Trainee officer (Scottish Government)
- Assistant field trials officer (SAC Consulting)
- Trainee estate factor
- Auction Mart trainee auctioneer
- Food and drink trainee consultant (SAC Consulting)



*Rachel Mackellar - one of the first SRUC RICS students surveying an estate in North East Scotland*

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**All examples provided will be posted to the Enhancement Themes website with the intention of including them in the National Transitions map.**