



Day in the Life Commercial Consultant, Canada

What is your position/role at Systech?

I am a Commercial Consultant working on a large hospital project in Montreal, Canada. I transferred to the country having originally started working with Systech in the UK.

What is your typical day?

A day in Canada is very similar to a typical UK based commercial/QS role. Cost reporting, creating Change Directives, meeting with subcontractors are all part of a regular day. Although Montreal is French speaking, the language of the contract is English and most of the correspondence received via email is the same. Meetings can sometimes take a bit longer as English points will often need to be repeated in French and vice versa depending on the language ability of the attendees.

What are the interesting aspects of your role?

An interesting aspect of the current project is its sheer scale. It is one of the largest new build hospitals constructed in North America, and is being built in a downtown city centre location. Working within the French speaking environment is also interesting as is working within the seasonal weather extremes not experienced in the UK.

What are the challenges?

Challenges of contracting abroad include logistical challenges. While it

is fantastic to be able to experience moving and working in different cities/countries on a project by project basis it can be challenging to organise and plan the required moves between projects. Often there are times where client projects will be delayed and end dates are extended more than once, meaning logistical planning needs to be flexible. I am moving with a wife and a dog – so the challenge is explaining the above to her!

What words of advice would you offer someone thinking of working for Systech?

Working with Systech can give an individual the opportunity to experience new countries, cultures and working environments. The initial transition with flights, visas etc. to a different country is arranged by Systech and in my experience has been smooth and without difficulty.

What social activities have you been involved in?

Depending on your location there will very likely be other Systech employees on your project or in your city of work. I have worked and regularly socialised with Systech colleagues over the three years I have been in Canada spanning all projects.

What is the culture like?

As the client is a Joint Venture between a UK and a Spanish contractor, the working culture is pretty

much European with the majority of commercial and subcontract processes being adopted from the UK. The culture of Montreal is a unique blend of Canada and Europe, not quite North American and not quite European – it's an interesting and enjoyable mix.

How has working for Systech helped you achieve your career goals?

It was always a goal of mine to travel and work abroad and Systech has been the perfect facilitator to achieve this goal.

What makes working for Systech different from the competition?

Through working with Systech on a wide range of projects in different locations it is possible to take lessons from each one and get a wider view of the industry. The experience helps develop your ability as a construction professional and will hopefully make you comfortable to work in any construction environment with the individual challenges they bring. I particularly enjoyed preparing and bringing a claim through a successful ADR process in Calgary, Alberta on a transmission lines project and appreciated the value of a UK construction background throughout that process.

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