

Case Study: Alumni

Alkesh, Electrical & Electronic Engineering with Management (MEng)

Graduation Year: 2006

Job Title: Associate

Employer: Deutsche Bank

Department: Foreign Exchange Options IT, Group Technology & Operations



What has been your career path up until now?

During my time at Imperial I spent many of my summers participating in internships, trying to find out what really made me tick in the real world. Through that process I came across Deutsche Bank, where I found a role that let me use my technical knowledge but apply it to solve different financial problems, something that formed an interest of mine. As part of the graduate programme I participated in two rotations, the first was in the area of Credit Derivatives and the second in FX Options. I chose to stay on in my second role, and shortly after became an Associate and was given the opportunity to become Product Lead for the front office application I was working on at the time.

“Summers are long; take some time out from sun bathing, open your eyes and try out occupations you did not consider before”

- Alkesh

What does your job involve?

My typical work day starts around 8.30 and ends by 18.00/19.00. As a product lead I communicate with the sponsors (traders) that use the application I support to find out their new requirements and then have to prioritise these into tasks for myself and the team. When supporting a front office application, used almost 24/7 by traders all over the world all sorts of urgent requests can arise during the day. One has to be quick at rearranging priorities and finding solutions to problems quickly, time is quite literally money, which can create a challenging environment to work in. At Deutsche Bank teams are spread all over the world; providing round the clock support and development, you have to quickly learn how to navigate the cultural differences to form an efficient team.

Do you use the skills that you obtained during your Imperial course?

Engineering at Imperial gave me a great technical and problem solving base that I apply daily and also the project management skills to plan and manage the tasks of the team.

What are your future plans?

I am already an Associate and a product lead after one year, I hope to continue on from these successes and progress up the management chain.



Can you name three things you like about your job?

1. Deutsche Bank is one of the most culturally diverse companies I have worked in, it is great to meet and work with people from all over the world.
2. Employee training is actively encouraged, and paid for which is fantastic.
3. No day is the same there is always something new to learn about or a new problem to solve.

Did you choose your course with this particular occupation in mind?

I chose my course thinking one day I might go and work for Intel or a similar firm, but during my summer internships I decided to try different occupations. I happened to come across a role at Deutsche Bank that actually combined electronic design and financial modelling, something I never considered possible when I first started. Goes to show that over the course of three or four years your views will change, keep your eyes open for new opportunities.

What part of your course did you particularly enjoy?

Electronics with management exposed me to a variety of courses; however my favourite at the time had to be Digital; as I like solving logic problems.

What skills did you develop within your degree that you find useful in your present role?

During my time at Imperial I learnt how to go about solving problems on my own as well as while working as part of a team. These are both important skills in the real world, to be able to get on with a set task, but also be able to communicate and collaborate with other team members.

Did you gain work experience or an internship whilst at ICL?

I worked during most of my summers, including internships at ARM and Deutsche Bank, these gave me great insights into what real work is like and allowing me to form a better picture of what I wanted to do before I completed my course. In fact having been offered a job after my internship at Deutsche Bank in my penultimate year I felt a lot less pressure going into my final year.

Were you involved in any extracurricular activities?

One has to maintain a work-life balance, and so I took an active role in the rifle club, becoming the treasurer for one year and representing both the college and the University of London in national competitions. I was also president of the IC Hindu Society helping organise a variety of cultural events. Even though I worked most of my summers I still managed to fit in month long trips to India and Africa.

Did you use the Careers Service or go to Careers events (e.g. job fairs, employer talks)?

I think the careers events are very useful. Especially if you go prepared with some knowledge of the companies attending, allowing you to ask the right questions and get the most out of meeting employees face to face. The freebies were rather good too.

Could you give us one or more career tips for Imperial graduates?

Summers are long; take some time out from sun bathing, open your eyes and try out occupations you did not consider before, it will give you a real head start if you can find out what you want before you are out there in the big wide world! We live in the information age, where networks are key. So make friends and try not to make enemies; you never know who your next new manager might be.