

Case Study: Alumni

Anthony, Chemical Engineering (MEng)

Graduation Year: 2010

Job Title: Field Engineer

Employer: Baker Hughes

Department: Drilling Fluids



What has been your career path up until now?

After graduating from Imperial, I joined Baker Hughes as a graduate Field Engineer on the LEAD program. I was immediately sent to Dubai for a two week introduction to the oil and gas industry, followed by eight weeks of intensive training. In the eight months that I have been with Baker Hughes, I have worked on land rigs in the south of England, on semi-submersible rigs in the North Sea and in deeper waters west of the Shetlands.

What does your job involve?

As a Drilling Fluids Engineer, I provide onsite services to the operator (i.e. BP, Exxon, Shell, etc) by measuring, testing and supervising the running of the fluid mixing and pumping, including technical analysis and specific recommendations for controlling fluid properties. In the office, I am involved in drafting tenders and fluids programs as well as hydraulics modelling.

“It is important to know what your aspirations are, what your priorities and values are, and then find the career path that fits them.”

- Anthony

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

Fluid mechanics and heat transfer are the most relevant courses in my current role. Teamwork and communication skills, developed through the seemingly endless stream of projects and coursework, have proved to be real assets as well. However, the most valuable skill that I have developed is being able to understand a lot of new information quickly and apply it in the right setting.

What are your future plans?

For the next two years I will be changing seats every six months. This gives me a great opportunity to experience many different areas of work at Allen & Overy before choosing where to qualify. At the moment I am not sure where I will qualify but the firm encourages trainees to keep an open mind before committing to a specific area.



Can you name three things you like about your job?

1. Travelling
2. Working with diverse and capable people
3. Learning from industry veterans

Is there anything you are less keen on?

Unpredictable schedule – I can plan at most four weeks ahead.

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

I knew I wanted to work in the industry and not be confined in an office like a typical process engineer. As a graduate Field Engineer I am always on my feet on the rig site.

What part of your course did you particularly enjoy?

I enjoyed the coursework and projects the most.

Were you involved in any extracurricular activities?

I was involved with the outdoors society and regularly went to the Westway climbing centre in Ladbroke Grove, followed by some happy times in the union.

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

To work as a Field Engineer, you have got to love being active and being on your feet all the time. It is also important to be flexible, some Field Engineers have as little as four hours notice to get to a heliport and as little as two weeks to relocate to a foreign country. It is important to know what your aspirations are, what your priorities and values are, and then find the career path that fits them.

