

Case Study: Alumni

Emily, Petroleum Geoscience (MSc)

Graduation Year: 2007

Job Title: Graduate Geoscientist

Employer: Centrica

Department: Upstream Production and Development



What has been your career path up until now?

I have been in the oil industry for 6 months after graduating from Imperial.

What does your job involve?

I work with geologists, geophysicists and reservoir engineers on a day to day basis. On a typical day I work 09.00 – 17.00 in the office, working on developing gas fields and subsurface evaluation, but there isn't really an average day here - everyday is different and challenging. I also go offshore a couple of times a year and have a few training courses out of the office each year. I attended a fieldtrip recently. Key skills include teamwork and communication.

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

Many of the skills used each day come straight from my Masters course, as this was specific to Petroleum Geoscience.

What are your future plans?

I am currently on a 2 year graduate program, and after this I have an opportunity to do a 6 month secondment in one of our offices abroad.

Can you name three things you like about your job?

Three things I enjoy about my job include:

- It is very varied
- It is a direct application of my Masters and so is technically challenging
- I work in a great office with people who are fun to work with.

“My career tips would be apply early and also to a selection of companies, but also not to stress about job applications too much.”

- Emily



Is there anything you are less keen on?

Things I don't like so much include collating data (it can be tedious) and working to deadlines (it can be stressful sometimes).

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

I chose my Masters course for a career as a Petroleum Geoscientist.

What part of your course did you particularly enjoy?

I enjoyed the fieldtrips and the group work most. On a Masters course you spend a lot of time with your course mates, so it is great if you all get on well.

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

Much of my Masters course was specific to work done in the industry, which makes it much easier when you start work, as it isn't the first time you are doing something.

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

My Masters thesis was with a company in Aberdeen for 3 months. This was a useful experience of what life is like in the industry and also learning what type of company would suit me.

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

I used the careers service for someone to go over my CV. My course also had many oil industry companies come in to give presentations.

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

My career tips would be apply early and also to a selection of companies, but also not to stress about job applications too much. I went travelling after my Masters and then got a job after that, which turned out to be a really good decision as I found the right company for me.